



3 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

An important time to think about our history and our future.



5 ADVANCED DNA ANALYSIS

More ways to use your DNA results to find family members.



12 HELP OUR SOCIETY FLOURISH

AAGSNC has several committees which could benefit from your help.



15 WEB NOTES

New guide to using Freedmen's Bureau records, free Webinars, and more.

the Baobab Tree

Journal of the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California, Inc. / Vol. 20 No. 1 / Winter 2015 / ISSN 1543-4125



Saving Historic Friendship Cemetery in Hot Springs, Arkansas

Jackie Barrow Stewart
AAGSNC Member

I recall the countless stories my stepfather, I. V. Ferguson, fondly shared about his childhood experiences in Center Point, Arkansas. He was saddened when his Uncle Harv moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas, with his wife, Anne, and their son, James, and grandson, Neal. Neal was one of I. V.'s favorite cousins and playmates.

The Ferguson family lifestyle was very different in Hot Springs than in Center Point. Their new hometown brought tourism and employment for those who wanted to move away from farm life. Uncle Harv and James worked at one of the government-operated bathhouses, Anne worked in a private home, and Neal attended school. The family purchased a home on Walnut Street and settled into the community.

It was not until I became involved with the Friendship Preservation Society that I discovered the connection of the Ferguson family to the cemetery. This family became one of the principal architects of an enterprising group that pooled their resources and purchased land for the only black cemetery in Hot Springs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Photo courtesy of Jackie Stewart



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of Northern California (AAGSNC)

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It's Your History

Isn't it time you told **your**
story?

The African-American Genealogical Society of Northern California (AAGSNC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated in its commitment to national and international black African-ancestry family history research. The society provides a unique approach to education, research skills, and support to anyone interested in genealogy.

Objectives

- To promote interest in genealogy, biography, and related history of 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 material and make such material available to all.
- To promote and maintain ethical standards in genealogical research and publications.

Membership and Its Benefits

Any person interested in furthering the objectives of AAGSNC is eligible for membership upon submission and acceptance of a completed application form and payment of dues.

Membership categories are as follows:

- Regular Membership: Age 17 and Over
- Family Membership
- Youth Membership: Age 16 and Under
- Organization Membership: Association, Library, Society, Nonprofit Group
- Lifetime Regular Membership: Age 17 and Over
- Lifetime Family Membership

Meetings: AAGSNC holds monthly meetings that include guest speakers, workshops, seminars, and networking with other members. Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month (except July and August) from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Oakland Public Library Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602.

Field Trips and Support: Members can attend regularly scheduled trips to the Oakland FamilySearch Library and receive assistance with their research projects. Participation in organized research trips to the Salt Lake City Family History Library and taking part in events with other genealogical and historical organizations are included in our program.

Members Only Section of Our Web Site: Compiled databases, *The Baobab Tree* archive, meeting presentations (PDF's, video, and podcasts), ancestral charts, and more.

To join, please visit <http://www.aagsnc.org/>.

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The Branch

Words from the Society President

Photo courtesy of M. Howard Edwards



by **M. Howard Edwards**
President, AAGSNC

Europeans settled the new world to exploit its riches and retain or gain riches of their own. To do this required low-cost labor. Indentured servants did not completely fill the bill. They tried enslaving the native populations, and that did not work out. African slaves did provide adequate labor at a very low cost, however, and in addition, holding a slave added to their asset bases and grew their wealth.

Since slavery was a lifetime assignment which extended to “all of the issue” of a slave, slave holders had little incentive to improve the lot of their work forces, to educate, train, or encourage them. As a matter of fact, to do so was considered counterproductive. Some feared insurrection by a workforce that was literate and aware of the unfairness of their servitude. This would only encourage discontent and dissention, and it was felt it would not improve productivity, but decrease it. Some felt it was a waste of time and resources to train slaves for the work they were to do. Some declined to accept the added expense such education and training would incur, preferring to pocket this as additional income.

As time went on, importation of slaves was outlawed. As societal opposition to slavery increased, it was felt that these workers would become far more expensive to replace. It was cheaper to

keep them “in their place.” This was a belief they elected to fight a horribly disastrous war to defend.

Even after slaves were freed during the American Civil War, every attempt was made to maintain or restore the conditions of slavery, if not the legal category; this gave the former slave holder no downside at all (even though it had nothing but downside for the former slave). Yet from then until now, and despite every attempt by many European Americans to thwart social advancement, African Americans did advance—in every social, educational, and economic arena they possibly could.

Recognizing this huge achievement, Carter G. Woodson in 1926 established Negro History Week to bring this success to the attention of the United States. This grew to become what we know now as Black History Month.

We cannot divorce our family histories from the social climate that fostered these histories. Knowing the history of blacks in America will give us some insights into why our forebears did what they did and went where they went.

We owe it to ourselves to fully participate in Black History Month—to go to lectures, watch movies, study documentaries on TV, all with an eye toward expanding our knowledge of the world inhabited by our ancestors and what their contributions may have been to their world.

Above all things, we should listen to our youngsters during this month even if at no other time, and encourage them to explore the story of how blacks in America went from nothing to everything they are today.

Inside this issue

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: DID YOU CHECK IT OUT?	3
THE LEAF	4
CHROMOSOME MAPPING AND AUTOSOMAL DNA ANALYSIS	5
AAGSNC'S SOLANO COUNTY DISCUSSION GROUP	8
MEMORIAL: ANGELO ANDREWS	8
HELP OUR SOCIETY FLOURISH	12
WEB NOTES	14
BAOBAB WRITER'S GUIDELINES	14

March 21

Preserving Your Genealogical Legacy

April 11

Tim Janzen of 23andMe
(at Oakland FamilySearch Library)

April 18

DNA

May 16

Finding Maiden Names

June 20

Reunions and Research Trips

September 19

Braggin' and Lyin' Session

October 17

Research Resources: Off- and Online

November 21

Slave Research

December 19

Annual Holiday Party

For more information and updates on our events and meetings, visit <http://www.AAGSNC.org/>



The Leaf

Updates from the Board of Directors,
Officers, Society Committees, and Blog

AAGSNC Executive Committee Meeting Notes November 15, 2014 and December 20, 2014

November 15, 2014

Present: Jackie Chauhan, Howard Edwards, Annette Madden, Carol Miller, Diana Ross, Janice M. Sellers, Jackie Stewart, Dera Williams

Committee Reports

Secretary: Dera Williams
The minutes were approved with corrections.

Program Committee:

 Annette Madden

- Flyers have been distributed about our annual holiday party on December 20.

- The San Francisco Public Library wants AAGSNC to make a presentation on Saturday, February 14, 2015 for Black History Month.

Journal Committee: Janice M. Sellers
The Fall 2014 issue has been mailed or distributed. This issue consists mainly of reprints. It would be nice if we could have more original articles.

Finance/Budget: Howard Edwards
President Edwards proposed presenting the budget to the general meeting. He has already sent it to the Executive Committee. It was moved and seconded that the budget be approved by the board as is.

Publicity Committee: Jackie Stewart
The library is now putting out a sign about our meetings at the bottom of stairs.

Historian: Jackie Chauhan
Jackie has a number of old copies of *The Baobab Tree* to give away at the holiday

party. Howard gave her the history writing guide for the society.

Website Committee

The upgrade has been completed. No more expenses for the Web site.

Outreach and Education Committee

No report

December 20, 2014

Present: Gerry DeBerry, Howard Edwards, Upperton Hurts, Annette Madden, Diana Ross, Janice M. Sellers, Jackie Stewart, Alvis Ward, Dera Williams

Committee Reports

Secretary: Dera Williams
The minutes were approved with corrections

Program Committee: Annette Madden
The San Francisco History Expo is February 28 and March 1, 2015. Janice and Alvis will represent AAGSNC. An e-mail blast will go out for volunteers for this event.

General Discussion

Official society color: Discussion ensued regarding the official color/s for our organization. It was discussed and agreed that burgundy is our official color.

Chromosome Mapping and Autosomal DNA Analysis

Advanced research techniques to use with your DNA results

Tim Janzen, M.D.
Contributor

The science of genetics has changed dramatically in the past 60 years, since James Watson and Francis Crick first described DNA in 1953. Genetics is increasingly being used to help people trace their family histories. The first major application of genetics to a family history puzzle was in 1998, when researchers established that a male Jefferson, either Thomas Jefferson or a close male relative, fathered at least one of Sally Hemings' children. The first major company to utilize DNA for family history purposes was Family Tree DNA, which was founded by Bennett Greenspan in 2000. Initially the only types of testing that were done were Y chromosome and mitochondrial DNA testing.

More recently, autosomal DNA testing has moved into a prominent role in genetic genealogy. 23andMe was the first company to offer autosomal DNA testing for genealogical purposes. Its Relative Finder feature (now renamed as DNA Relatives) was quite popular when it was introduced in 2009. This feature allows people to discover genetic cousins they likely had never been in contact with previously. In 2010 Family Tree DNA introduced an autosomal DNA test called Family Finder, which is a competing product to 23andMe's test. In 2012 a third major autosomal DNA test, called AncestryDNA, was introduced by Ancestry.com. It has been quite popular due to its low price and the availability of extensive pedigree charts for many of the people who have been tested by Ancestry.com.

Let's explore autosomal DNA in greater depth. This DNA is found in 44 of our 46 chromosomes. Autosomal DNA is highly useful for genealogical purposes. As a general rule, the more autosomal DNA that you share in common with another person, the more closely related you are to that person. A child receives 50% of his autosomal DNA from each

of his parents, and similarly on average a child receives a 25% contribution to his DNA from each of his four grandparents. So it goes as you go back through each generation, until you reach a point about six to seven generations back. At that level there is no guarantee that you will inherit a segment of DNA from each ancestor in your family tree, due to the random nature in which individual segments of autosomal DNA are passed down from parent to child.

It is also important to have some understanding about the percentage of autosomal DNA that siblings, first cousins, and other relatives share in common with each other. On average, siblings share 50% of their DNA and first cousins share about 12.5% of their DNA. These percentages can vary somewhat widely, however, with some siblings sharing 60% or more of their DNA in common while other siblings share only 40% or less. Similarly, first cousins can share as little as 7% of their autosomal DNA or as much as 15%. For more detail about the ranges and averages that are involved for each level of relationship I suggest you consult my reference charts at <http://mennodna.remotewebaccess.com/23andme/ref.html>. For a chart showing the average percentage of shared DNA and the average number of cMs shared in common at various levels of genealogical relationships in both DNA Relatives and in Family Finder, consult my spreadsheet at <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/21841126/23andMe%20and%20Family%20Finder%20comparison%20chart%20showing%20the%20amount%20of%20shared%20DNA%20at%20various%20levels%20of%20relationship.xls> (or <http://tinyurl.com/chc4l2n>).

The exciting thing about autosomal DNA testing for genealogical purposes is that this type of testing can identify cousins that you have not previously known about. Many of these cousins are

distantly related to you, but some may be closely related. If you carefully study the pedigree charts of your genetic cousins, in some cases you can identify surnames or ancestors that you share in common with these matches. If you can identify specific DNA segments that you share in common with two or more people, careful review of those people's pedigree charts can potentially help you identify shared surnames that can help you break through genealogical brick walls.

Currently, three primary genetic genealogy companies offer autosomal DNA testing for genealogical purposes: 23andMe, Family Tree DNA, and Ancestry.com. The tests offered by these companies are similar in that they all use "SNP chips" that test between 500,000 and 700,000 specific point mutations called SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphisms). 23andMe's test includes the fewest SNPs in its test. All three companies provide you with a list of your closest matches in their databases. The number of matches that you have depends on the number of people in the company's database, the number of people with your ancestral background who have been tested, and the criteria that the company sets for what constitutes a match. Ancestry.com's product, AncestryDNA, has the lowest criteria for a match, which results in more distantly related people showing up on your match list.

23andMe and Family Tree DNA both provide you with information about the specific DNA segments that you share with your matches, including which chromosomes the matching segments are located on, the number of SNPs in the matching segment, and the start and stop positions on the chromosomes for each matching segment. This information is crucial for genetic genealogists who are trying to trace their family trees, since the matching segment information allows you to map your chromosomes, which involves determining which ancestor or ancestral

couple the matching segments were inherited from. Ancestry.com currently does not provide this information, which is a major disadvantage to its test.

The primary advantages to Ancestry.com's AncestryDNA test are the fact that Ancestry.com phases the data before the match list is generated, which reduces the number of false positive matches that appear on your match list, and the availability of extensive pedigree charts for many of the people who have been tested. The tests from Ancestry.com, 23andMe, and FamilyTreeDNA's Family Finder are all currently priced at \$99. I estimate that 23andMe currently has about 750,000 people in its database, FTDNA has about 100,000 people in its Family Finder database, and Ancestry.com has more than 500,000 in its AncestryDNA database. A much higher proportion of the people who have taken 23andMe's test have done relatively limited genealogical research, which makes it more challenging when trying to contact your 23andMe matches.

I believe that it is reasonable for the serious genetic genealogist to do the 23andMe test, the AncestryDNA test, and the FTDNA Family Finder test. I believe that the most cost-effective approach for the average genetic genealogist is to do the AncestryDNA test first and then import the raw data file into the FTDNA Family Finder database, which currently costs \$39. This saves \$60 as compared to ordering both tests separately. For a more comprehensive analysis of the differences between these three autosomal DNA tests I suggest you consult the chart I created at http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_testing_comparison_chart, which compares the features of the three tests, as well as the Genographic Project Geno 2.0 test, in some depth. To see analysis from a large autosomal DNA project, I suggest you review the Anabaptist project that I help administer that is at <http://mennodna.remotewebaccess.com/23andme/index.html>.

When you begin the process of doing autosomal testing, it makes sense to first test yourself and your parents, provided they are still alive. If your parents aren't

alive, then I recommend testing your spouse and at least one child, if you have any children. I also recommend that you test each and every one of your living biological aunts and uncles. Testing their spouses and at least one of their children if they have children is also helpful. It is then prudent to begin testing first and second cousins of your parents or you if they are available for testing. As a general rule of thumb, you want to test the oldest living relatives on each side of the family. If you have a lot of first cousins then it may be best to test more of your second cousins rather than testing a large number of first cousins, since the shared segments from second cousins allow you to map the segments on your chromosome map back one more generation than you can with first cousins. In some cases it may be reasonable to also test third cousins for purposes of chromosome mapping, assuming that you have finances that allow you to do that.

After you do the Family Finder or 23andMe test, you receive a list of names of people who share one or more matching segments (or half-identical regions) of DNA with you. This list is found in the DNA Relatives category on your 23andMe account and in the Chromosome Browser section in your Family Finder test results. Some of these people will share an ancestor with you within six generations on your pedigree chart. Others will share an ancestor with you as many as twelve or more generations back in time, depending upon the situation. Some of your matches who share relatively small matching segments with you (generally only those with matching segments less than 12 cMs) will not actually share any ancestors in common with you in the past 300–500 years but will instead be false matches, generally referred to as matches who are identical by state. When two people share a matching segment that they both inherited from a shared ancestor that segment is said to be identical by descent (IBD). Most of the time when you share an IBD segment that is relatively short (under 10 cMs or so) with someone else you will have a challenging time figuring out the genealogical connection, unless both of you have highly accurate pedigree charts that go back nine to twelve

generations on all lines. Unfortunately, few people have pedigree charts that are that detailed. By mapping your chromosomes, you can narrow the hunt to the most recent common ancestor.

Chromosome Mapping

Genetic genealogists want to use autosomal DNA results to help them trace their family trees. A powerful technique that is very helpful for genetic genealogists who have done either the Family Finder or the 23andMe test is a process called chromosome mapping. Chromosome mapping involves utilizing the autosomal DNA results from known relatives to map which segments of your genome came from specific ancestors. This process may seem somewhat complicated, but it is not excessively so and can be done by anyone who is willing to put enough time and effort into the process.

I believe that the process of chromosome mapping is best done in a spreadsheet program such as *Excel* 2007 or a more recent version. If you haven't already reviewed my genome map *Excel* file at [http://dl.dropbox.com/u/21841126/phased%20genome%20of%20Robert%20and%20Betty%20Janzen%20\(public\).zip](http://dl.dropbox.com/u/21841126/phased%20genome%20of%20Robert%20and%20Betty%20Janzen%20(public).zip), do so before trying to understand the details. It is important to note that column G is the chromosome that I received from my mother and that column H is the chromosome that my mother has that she didn't pass on to me. You can delete the data in those columns and then use this file to store your analysis of your own data. You may also delete the data in columns I and J, which deal with the ethnicity or geographical origin of various DNA segments based on 23andMe's Ancestry Composition feature.

Both 23andMe and FTDNA allow you to see the start and stop positions of each DNA segment you share with other matches in the companies' databases, and you are able to look at only five matches at a time. FTDNA allows up to five comparisons at a time in the Chromosome Browser feature; 23andMe allows up to five comparisons at a time in the Family Inheritance: Advanced feature. Downloading and

compiling all of this matching segment data can be a cumbersome and time-consuming process. Fortunately, Robert Warthen has developed an extremely helpful tool at <http://www.dnaged.com> that helps simplify the process of downloading one's matching segment data from either 23andMe or FTDNA's Family Finder database. I recommend that everyone register and use this Web site to download your matching segment data efficiently. See <http://www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com/2013/01/brought-to-you-by-adoptiondna.html> for more background information about this tool.

I have written some detailed step-by-step instructions describing how to do chromosome mapping using both 23andMe and Family Finder data. These instructions may be found on pages 4–10 of a document that I co-authored with Emily Aulicino. You can download this document from <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/21841126/Chromosome%20Mapping%20for%20DNA%20Presentation.doc> (or <http://tinyurl.com/canzmsa>). Pages 10–13 outline some advanced chromosome mapping techniques I have developed as well. Use of these techniques can be helpful in filling in portions of your chromosome map that can't be filled in using the conventional technique described in pages 4–10. On pages 13 and 14 I outline the process by which one can use 23andMe's Ancestry Composition feature to map which segments of your genome are linked to specific ethnic or regional populations. This information can be helpful to have for reference when you are attempting to determine where a specific segment of a chromosome came from. An additional summary I wrote about chromosome mapping may be found at <http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Phasing>.

Triangulation

Another important technique utilized by genetic genealogists who are analyzing autosomal DNA is triangulation. Triangulation is a process whereby you review the family trees of everyone who matches you on a specific region of the genome in an attempt to find the shared ancestor or ancestral couple from whom you all inherited that particular segment

of DNA. You can try the triangulation technique any time you have the family trees of at least two people who match you on the same segment. Unfortunately, it can be challenging to find the shared ancestor even if you have family trees from five or more people who share the same segment with you, since many people's family trees don't extend far enough back in time to allow you to find the common ancestor. Particularly for smaller segments in the range of 5–10 cMs in length, the shared ancestor could have lived as many as ten or more generations back in time, which makes finding the genealogical connection challenging. In any case, triangulation is an important technique and should be attempted any time you find that two people match you on the same segment of DNA.

In order to utilize triangulation effectively you must have a means of tracking and sorting your matching segment data. After you have used <http://www.dnaged.com> to download your matching segment data from 23andMe and/or from FTDNA's Family Finder database, you will want to organize this file in a very specific way. At [http://dl.dropbox.com/u/21841126/23andMe%20and%20FF%20matches%20for%20Betty%20Janzen%20\(public\).xls](http://dl.dropbox.com/u/21841126/23andMe%20and%20FF%20matches%20for%20Betty%20Janzen%20(public).xls) (or <http://tinyurl.com/cp4d5y7>) I have placed a file that contains all of the matching segment data for my mother's matches at 23andMe and in Family Finder (minus all HIRs under 3.5 cMs). This file is sorted first by chromosome, then by whether or not I also share the same segment that my mother shares with the people she is matching, and finally by the start position. When the file is sorted in this way it is optimized for use for triangulation. As I add new matching segment data to this file I then resort it in this way so that I can quickly find all of the people who also share the same segment.

Note that by incorporating information about whether or not I also match my mother's matches on the same segment I am separating the segments into those that are found on one of my mother's chromosomes and those that are found on the other chromosome for any given pair of autosomal chromosomes. If you

don't have data from a parent/child pair or from a two-parent/one-child trio then triangulation is more challenging, since you won't be able to tell which of your matches are matching you on one chromosome and which are matching on the opposite chromosome. To overcome this problem you need to compare your matches on any one segment to each other to see if they share the same segment.

If you want a graphic display of your chromosome map, I suggest you use Kitty Cooper's chromosome mapping program. See her blog at <http://blog.kittycooper.com/tools/chromosome-mapper> for more background. Her program makes a map from a CSV file that includes ancestral DNA segments from your known paternal or maternal ancestors, displaying up to ten ancestors on each side. A tutorial by Rebekah Canada may be found at <http://www.haplogroup.org/chromosome-mapper-kitty-cooper>.

In summary, chromosome mapping is extremely helpful in that it allows genetic genealogists to focus search for a shared ancestor on a particular portion of a family tree. Triangulation is also a helpful technique in that it allows you to group all of your matches on a specific portion of your genome and then do a focused search for shared ancestors or shared localities among those matches. In future years chromosome mapping and triangulation will be done with increasing regularity by genetic genealogists, and I hope these processes will eventually be automated by the various DNA companies that do autosomal DNA testing for genealogical purposes.

Common Terms Pertaining to Autosomal DNA That Are Used in Genetic Genealogy

Identical by Descent (IBD): when half-identical regions (HIRs) in two people's autosomal DNA or on the X chromosome match (neglecting rare mutations and testing errors) due to the fact that the two people share a common ancestor and thus share a DNA segment that was passed down to both of them

from that common ancestor.

Identical by State (IBS): when half-identical regions (HIRs) in two people's autosomal DNA or on the X chromosome match by coincidence. When two individuals share a half-identical region without being related, those results are identical by state.

Half-Identical Region (HIR): a region of two paired chromosomes where at least one of the two alleles from one person's pair of chromosomes matches at least one of the two alleles from a different person's pair of chromosomes throughout the entire region. A half-identical region may be identical by descent (IBD) or identical by state (IBS).

Phasing: the process of determining which allele values in an unphased autosomal DNA SNP dataset came from one parent and which came from the other parent. See <http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Phasing> for more background.

Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP, pronounced snip): a DNA sequence variation occurring when a single nucleotide—A, T, C, or G—in the genome (or other shared sequence) differs between members of a biological species or paired chromosomes in an individual. For example, two sequenced DNA fragments from different individuals, AAGCCTA to AAGCTTA, contain a difference in a single nucleotide. In this case we say that there are two alleles: C and T. Almost all common SNPs have only two alleles.

Photo courtesy of Tim Janzen



Tim Janzen is a community leader in using autosomal DNA (what we inherit equally from both parents) to trace and affirm family connections. With an

extensive background in traditional genealogy and especially Mennonite genealogy, Tim has led efforts to develop advanced tools. Tim partnered with CeCe Moore to found the Institute for Genetic Genealogy.

AAGSNC's Solano County Discussion Group

AAGSNC supports a regional genealogy group

Corvin Tademy
AAGSNC Member

In March 2009, the African American Genealogical Society of Solano County was established by Cynthia McDaniels. The group was initially composed of eight members who had attended Cynthia's workshops at the Fairfield Library. Over the next few years the group met at a local church, restaurants, and homes, encouraging others to take the first steps in tracing their family roots and sharing resources.

In 2011, the group teamed up with the Ethnic Studies Department of Solano Community College in Fairfield, under the leadership of Dr. Karen McCord. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. This collaboration and valuable venue has allowed the group to share genealogy information and resources with students as well as local residents. In addition, access to multiple computers allows our group to provide one-on-one research help.

In December 2012, a name change to the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California (AAGSNC) "Solano County Discussion Group" was voted on and approved by the members. Since that time, many of our members have formally joined AAGSNC and taken advantage of the resources and wealth of knowledge the society offers.

The Solano County Discussion has a Yahoo! Group for communication. Go to <https://groups.yahoo.com/aagsnc-ssg> to sign up. The group e-mail address is AAGSNC-ssg@yahoogroups.com. AAGSNC president M. Howard Edwards is the group moderator.

If you are in the Solano County area, feel free to visit our discussion group. Please contact our facilitator, Corvin Tademy, at tadcor@aol.com or our vice facilitator, Gerald Gordon, at radio138@comcast.net.

Photo courtesy of Corvin Tademy



For the past five years, **Corvin Tademy** and his wife have been researching her paternal and maternal family in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Memorial: Angelo Andrews

Janice M. Sellers
Editor, *The Baobab Tree*

AAGSNC member Angelo Andrews, a contributor to *The Baobab Tree* during his short time with the society, passed away suddenly on October 20, 2014. He was passionate and



enthusiastic about his family history research, and started a Facebook family page so that family members could stay in touch easily with each other.

A memorial service for Angelo was held in Hercules on November 8. A celebration of his life is being planned for his birthday month (July) this year.

If you would like to send anything to the family, please mail it to:
The Memory of Angelo Andrews
2790 Rollingwood Drive
San Pablo, CA 94806

Tell us your delivery preference for *The Baobab Tree* . . .

The Baobab Tree is a digital publication. It still has the same wonderful content, the same advertisements, and the same frequency of publication you are accustomed to enjoying.

Most back issues of the journal are available as digital files in the **Members Only** section of our Web site (<http://www.aagsnc.org/>). As each new edition becomes available, it will be added to the collection and a notification will be sent by e-mail to the membership list and posted in the AAGSNC Membership Yahoo! Group site. Those who have opted to continue to receive the printed copy will be mailed their issue at the same time.

New members will be given the option of receiving the publication digitally or by mail.

Current members can state their delivery preference by completing and mailing the request below (or a photocopy if you prefer to not damage your issue). E-mailed requests will also be honored. Please be sure to include the information below in your e-mail. Members can also visit <http://goo.gl/teiFp> to submit their preference.

If a member elects to change his or her mind later, the member should contact the Journal Committee by mail: *The Baobab Tree*, c/o AAGSNC, P.O. Box 27485, Oakland, CA 94602-0985, or by e-mail: journal@aagsnc.org Requests will be honored at any time.

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Historic Friendship Cemetery in Hot Springs, Arkansas

continued from cover

Photo courtesy of Jackie Stewart



Visiting my grandparents' graves during my trips to Hot Springs has always been a regular occurrence. For years I was perplexed at finding my grandfather Bertrand Johnson's grave located in Greenwood Cemetery, which the locals called the "white folks cemetery", while my grandmother Blanche and aunt Charlotte's graves were located in Friendship Cemetery, less than two miles away. The two cemeteries were totally different in many ways. Greenwood had groundskeepers who kept the grass carefully manicured with rows of delicate flowers that lined the driveway as you entered the gates. The quietness of the surroundings brought a feeling of serenity.

On one occasion, as I cleaned the dirt from my grandfather's marker, I noticed the groundskeeper approaching with a curious look on his face. I wondered if he had seen the inscription on my grandfather's grave: Mr. Bertrand Johnson / Born Feb. 8, 1878 / Died Jan. 2, 1923. During my grandfather's life the title "Mr." was not readily given to black people in the South. It was obvious my family as well as the community felt he was due the respect of being called Mr. Johnson. He had become part of the fabric of the community as an example of how he lived and loved his family.

After a bit of small talk about the weather, I asked the groundskeeper if he knew anything about the various cemeteries in the area. Although I gave no hint of what I clearly saw as a difference between the maintenance of the two cemeteries, his response was interesting. He indicated he felt uncomfortable sharing stories of the segregated cemeteries, but he wanted to first reassure me that the entire cemetery

was now under perpetual care and the practice of segregation no longer existed in the city. I guess since I told him I was visiting from California, he didn't realize I once had lived in Hot Springs and had an idea of a few segregated practices. Arkansas experienced its share of segregation, and Hot Springs was no exception. During the Jim Crow era there was a clear line drawn between blacks and whites, and this included death and burials.

The young groundskeeper continued and explained that the only cemetery he knew for black folks was Greenwood Cemetery. The common practice in the past was to separate an area designated for those particular graves, then carefully mark and fence them off from the rest of the cemetery. This would become the final resting place for many blacks in Hot Springs. The groundskeeper knew little about Friendship Cemetery except that he "heard tell that it was an old cemetery where mostly black folks were buried."

A few of the retired Langston High School alumni living in Hot Springs had researched the history of Friendship Cemetery through old maps and deeds, found at the Garland County Library. They also conducted interviews with older folks still living in the city. Their research uncovered documents about the rich history of this cemetery. During the 1920's, a group of enterprising black people incorporated Friendship Cemetery, Inc. They purchased land on Shady Grove Road, about two miles

from Greenwood, with the purpose of having a place for the interment of local blacks.

The idea came about that people could purchase individual cemetery plots or sections for their families. Among the first to purchase a large area of land were various churches for their congregations, including Roanoke Baptist Church, the oldest and largest black church in Hot Springs. At the time, sales of these plots would financially secure the maintenance and care of the cemetery. James Ferguson, I. V.'s cousin, would become the president of the newly formed Friendship Cemetery, Inc. My Johnson family purchased six family plots on a hillside.

Unfortunately, over time the company dissolved. With the death of James Ferguson in 1967, his son Neal became the primary caretaker of the cemetery. After the death of Neal Ferguson, the cemetery was sold to a private owner and fell into disrepair.

After my lengthy visit to Greenwood Cemetery, I decided to visit Friendship the following morning. With the intense July heat in Hot Springs, one cemetery per day was enough for me. The entrance sign that greeted me the next day appeared to be the original one that had been there since 1924. The evident lack of care was heartbreaking. There were individuals who lived in or near Hot Springs who did their best to maintain their families' or friends' gravesites, however. Unfortunately,

THE FRIENDSHIP CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Subject to printed terms, rules and regulations on the reverse hereof, I, or we, do hereby purchase from you in Section A Block 6 Lots 8 consisting of 6 grave-spaces in The Friendship Cemetery and hereby agree to pay the sum of 114.00 Dollars as follows: \$ 60.00 cash, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and the balance in 54.00 months as evidenced by notes of even date. My failure to make any of the above payments when due, will at your option, forfeit my claim to above lot, and all payments then made by me to be retained by you as liquidated damage.

It is agreed that on final payment of above note, I am to be furnished with deed to above lot.

James Ferguson Representative
Min Elda Johnson Name
Residence Address _____
Business Address _____
Date Feb 11 1946

2

Image courtesy of Jackie Stewart

the cemetery had become an unsightly dumping ground by uncaring people.

There was a movement by the community to force a clean-up of the property. Over time, because of the lack of funds and energy, overgrown weeds and uncared-for graves continued to be an eyesore. An unpaved, rocky, washed-out road leads to the top of the hillside that became my grandmother and aunt's final resting place. As I glanced down the hill I imagined a scenic view with grass and flowers, and birds singing in the pine and maple trees—how it once was and how it could be.

As I was kneeling to place flowers on each grave, a car with two people slowly appeared from behind the overgrown trees. I had heard earlier that there were people who came to the cemetery to commit unlawful acts. Apparently they saw me as nonthreatening and continued down the rocky road leading to the main street below. This was my turning point; I had to become involved to make a change for my family. I couldn't turn my back and walk away.

As folks came together there was plenty of finger-pointing to go around, but once clear objectives and priorities were established, the Langston High School alumni, along with other concerned citizens, put their plans into action. During the 2009 school reunion a nonprofit society, Friendship Cemetery Preservation Society, became a reality.

The society mission was not to replace Friendship Cemetery, Inc. but to protect its legacy. The main goal was to restore and maintain the historic cemetery. Many challenges faced the society then and now. There is an ongoing effort to seek donations from those who have loved ones buried in the hallowed ground. In the attempt to address these issues, requests for financial pledges are sent to alumni. Another challenge is

Cover image: Men placing a cross during rehabilitation of the cemetery

1. Mr. Bertrand Johnson's gravestone
2. Friendship Cemetery Association promissory note for six grave plots
3. Entrance to Friendship Cemetery

working with the private owner to establish a cooperative relationship. Society members, with volunteer assistance, oversee maintenance of the cemetery at least three to four times a year. The Friendship Cemetery Web site, <http://www.hshfcps.org/>, helps inform people and promote interest in the society's progress. One can also use the Web site to search for names and burial locations.

One volunteer, an anthropologist from Henderson College, has helped identify more than 600 unmarked or poorly marked graves. With the help of a Langston High School football alumnus, James Ford, white crosses were made and placed to honor many of those individuals without markers. The Garland County Historical Society became interested in Friendship Cemetery and developed a tombstone inscription book which identifies more than 800 tombstones.

The society became a member of Preservation of African American Cemeteries, Inc. (PAAC; <http://paacarcemeteries.com/>). PAAC cofounder and president Tamela Tenpenny Lewis attended several meetings, providing valuable information on how to preserve headstones and locate foundation funding. Local merchants, businesses, and churches have become part of the society movement. St. Mary's Catholic Church gave a donation for the first major clean-up. Throughout the years local churches have made donations, among them Roanoke Baptist Church, St. Paul Methodist Church, and Eureka Baptist Church, along with other religious organizations. The Langston High School Reunion Committee continues to be supportive, as are those individual alumni who give yearly. The Seiz Company, a local sign company in Hot Springs, donated and replaced the original 1924 Friendship Cemetery sign.



Photo courtesy of Jackie Stewart

When asked what the major challenges are for the cemetery project, without exception the committee indicates funding, maintaining interest, and getting young people involved. Unfortunately, many historic black cemeteries are lost due to those same issues. There is a continued effort by PAAC and others to rescue black cemeteries, lest we forget.

Thank you to the people who contributed to this article and those involved with the Friendship Cemetery Project: Ralph Porter, Betty Moon, La Venia Hicks, Sarah Washington, John Sims, Charles W. Smith, James Ford, Thomas Riddley, Margie Perkins, Fanny Hill, Ida Thompson, Alvin Clayton, Regenia Wade, Willie Wade, Ester Dixon, and Erica Gilkey.



Photo courtesy of Jackie Stewart

Jackie Barrow Stewart has been an active member of AAGSNC for more than fifteen years, currently serving as chair of the society's publicity committee. Her genealogy research has taken her from coast to coast, uncovering seven generations of her family. A few of her family surnames: Johnson, Trotter, Ferguson, and Barrow in Hempstead, Howard, and Garland counties, Arkansas; and Moore, Miller, Kinloch, and Bonhomme in St. Louis, Missouri. Jackie may be contacted at altojackie@aol.com.

Help Our Society Flourish

Committees are the lifeblood of our organization. If you are interested in joining one of our committees or have any questions, please contact the appropriate committee chair. As the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work," and as Annette Madden says, they also make the work lots more fun!

Executive Committee

President: M. Howard Edwards, president@aagsnc.org

The President convenes the Executive Committee to carry out the day-to-day business operations of the society. The committee is composed of the officers and standing committee chairs and currently meets at noon before each regular society meeting. The committee serves as a planning body and advisory group to the President, and is responsible for developing an annual budget for the approval of the Board of Directors and for implementing the programs of the Society.

All members are invited to attend Executive Committee meetings.

Fundraising Committee

Chair: vacant, fundraising@aagsnc.org

Develops activities throughout the year that will generate income for the society. Ways you can contribute:

1. Collaborate with members, volunteers, and outside resources to benefit AAGSNC financially to continue our work.
2. Help create, develop, and facilitate events and ideas with a purpose toward incoming contributions.
3. T.E.A.M. (Together everyone achieves more): Gather support and volunteers to create and unite to implement target goals.

Journal Committee

Chairman: Janice M. Sellers, journal@aagsnc.org

The Journal Committee causes a periodic journal chronicling the activities of the society and its members to be published to the membership and other interested parties. The journal can use your help in several areas:

1. Write an article! We always need new material. In addition to writing on what you have discovered about your family through your research, look at the list of suggested topics on page 15.
2. Interviewers/Writers: Members of the society and others have great stories to tell but may not be up to writing them themselves. You could interview someone and write the story or help that person write it.
3. You can assist with the editing and proofreading of articles.

Membership Committee

Chairman: Upperton Hurts, membership1@aagsnc.org

The Membership Committee solicits, records, and maintains the membership records of the Society. It collects and records membership fees for all categories of members. The committee also publishes a New Member Beginners Guide, which was put together by our members. All new members should receive one when they join. If you joined AAGSNC in 2014 and did not receive one, please e-mail the Membership Committee at membership1@aagsnc.org. If we can help you in any way with your membership, please let us know.

Outreach and Education Committee

Chairman: Alvis Ward, oande@aagsnc.org

This committee was established to respond to requests for and provide assistance to other organizations requesting assistance or presentations of techniques of African-ancestry family history research. Membership can contribute to the O&E Committee in the following ways:

1. Serve on our Speakers Bureau. You can present on beginning genealogy, how to research online, or a topic of your choice.
2. Volunteer for one of our outreach efforts, such as the Youth Ancestral Project or Black Family History Day.

It is necessary to have a process to teach our youth to continue the journey of carrying out AAGSNC's mission through membership and volunteering.

Program Committee

Chair: Annette Madden, programs@aagsnc.org

The role of the Program Committee is to develop a program for each meeting throughout the year. Programs are created and developed through membership input.

Committee Responsibilities:

1. Collect ideas and suggestions for programs
2. Secure program presenters for each meeting
3. Prepare meeting program calendar for the year
4. Develop program questionnaire

The Program Committee is open to additional members. The up-to-date program calendar is published in each issue of *The Baobab Tree*. We welcome new ideas and volunteer speakers.



Volunteers are what make AAGSNC programs and events so successful. One of the ways members such as Jackie Stewart (standing, top photo) and others become involved is by volunteering at Black Family History Day at the Oakland FamilySearch Library. These photos are from the February 15, 2015 event, at which almost 50 attendees received assistance with their research.

Publicity Committee

Chair: Jackie Stewart, publicity@aagsnc.org

This committee ensures that the society and its activities receive suitable publicity. If you have access to other outlets you can help get the word out, *e.g.*, church or civic affiliations; access to one or more social sites you visit and share information on; add our Web site URL to your default e-mail signature; talk about us at beauty shops, barber shops, and everything in between. If you're always on the move, this is your committee. If you simply like talking to others, we welcome you. You can join our committee at any monthly meeting by connecting with chair Jackie Stewart or designee Diana Ross. You can also e-mail your interest to publicity@aagsnc.org.



Throughout the year AAGSNC hosts and partners with several events where we can use your attendance and ability to get the word out. If you know of an event where AAGSNC should consider having a presence, e-mail us. All inquiries will be considered.

Website Committee

Chair: Geraldyn DeBerry, webmaster@aagsnc.org

Established to re-engineer the existing Web site and establish procedures for its management and use. Members can contribute to the Web site in the following ways:

1. Log into the Members Only section of our Web site to access *The Baobab Tree*, view past meeting presentation PDF's, submit your surnames to the Surname Directory, and access proprietary content generated by AAGSNC.
2. Visit our blog to learn of new additions in online research, and listen to podcasts or interviews.
3. Submit your obituaries for inclusion in our Obituary Project. For requirements, please e-mail us.
4. Send your friends and colleagues to <http://www.aagsnc.org/> to look for resources on how to start their genealogy research.



Photos courtesy of Jim Mattson and Alvis Ward

Baobab Writer's Guidelines

Interested in submitting your work to *The Baobab Tree*? You don't have to be a professional writer! Just tell your story the best you can and be willing to work with the editors to polish it for publication.

Here are some helpful hints when preparing your submissions:

- Type all submissions. Times New Roman font, 12 point is best.
- Write one to three pages. We always need some one-page stories; more than three pages is too long.
- We will edit. All submissions are subject to review by our journal committee and editors, and may be edited for clarity and to fit the space available.
- Send your bio along with your story; include your contact e-mail and phone number(s). Bio should be in narrative form if possible, not a resume; we will still edit as needed.
- Send your portrait. E-mail a JPG photo of yourself along with your story or article. A good clear head-and-shoulders shot of you is best, in front of a solid color background that contrasts with your hair and skin tone. If you only have a shot of yourself with other people, we may be able to crop it (*i.e.*, cut out the other folks).
- Photos, documents, and other graphics are always welcome, in JPG format. Make sure pictures are at least 300 dpi (dots per inch), sharp, and clear and have enough contrast to show up well in black and white. All photos and documents must have credits and captions submitted in a separate document.
- Respect the deadlines you're given for submissions and corrections. If your material is late, it might have to be held for the next issue or drastically altered to fit the space.

E-mail us at journal@aagsnc.org.

Web Notes

Resources, stories, and other things found while wandering the Web

Janice M. Sellers
Editor, *The Baobab Tree*

Note: All URL's are valid as of the date of publication.

Free Legacy Family Tree Webinars on black genealogy
http://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2015/01/freedom-webinar-series-familytreewebinarscom-celebrates-150-years-since-the-beginning-of-freedom-for.html

Online interactive guide to using Freedmen's Bureau records
<http://www.mappingthefreedmensbureau.com/>

Help transcribe minutes from the Colored Conventions
<http://coloredconventions.org/>

Some photos from the 1965 Selma to Montgomery march are online
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/16/arts/design/stephen-somerstein-photos-in-freedom-journey-1965.html?_r=0#

Woman who broke race restrictions on home ownership in San Francisco has passed away
<http://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/Dorothy-Adams-dies-broke-race-restriction-on-6013320.php>

Resource guide for researching slavery in Connecticut
<http://www.cslib.org/slaveryct.htm>

Document that analyzed possible fiscal results of freeing slaves in Sussex County, Delaware
<http://www.wdde.org/72557-history-matters-slave-document>

Status of probable last surviving slave cabin in St. Augustine in limbo
<http://www.actionnewsjax.com/news/news/local/future-st-augustine-slave-cabin-limbo/njZzQ/>

Black U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer crying while playing accordion at FDR's funeral in Georgia
<http://life.time.com/history/franklin-d-roosevelt-death-classic-photo-accordion-player/#1>

Online archive about Richard Pryor
<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2015/january/ryor-peoria-maps-011215.html>

Lynching map shows Louisiana victims between 1877–1950
http://www.nola.com/news/baton-rouge/index.ssf/2015/02/lynchings_louisiana_report.html

Massachusetts antislavery and antisegregation materials online
<https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/event/2015-ma-anti-slavery-anti-segregation-petitions-digital-archive-launch>

A woman and her daughter who graduated from Vassar by passing for white
<http://ronelfran.hubpages.com/hub/Anita-Florence-Hemmings-Passing-For-White-At-Vassar>

Records for the Harlem Hellfighters are being digitized and put online
<http://blog.eogn.com/2014/11/30/new-york-state-military-museum-is-digitizing-world-war-i-harlem-hellfighters-regiment-records/>

Documentary about a woman who discovered as an adult that her father is black
<http://thejewniverse.com/2015/little-white-lie/>

Ancestry blog post about research on a North Carolina free black man
<http://blogs.ancestry.com/cm/2014/10/24/uncovering-a-free-black-mans-past-buying-a-slave-to-unite-his-family/>

When the Klan failed miserably in North Carolina
<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2010/01/17/826081/-The-day-the-Klan-messed-with-the-wrong-people#>

A researcher is trying to identify photos of North Carolinians and Virginians, many of them black, taken 1890–1922
<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-mysterious-images-of-hugh-mangum/>

First black major league baseball player was in 1879
<http://vita-brevis.org/2014/12/solving-mystery-of-baseball/>

A Rhode Island cathedral may become a museum about the slave trade
<http://news.yahoo.com/us-cathedral-may-become-museum-slave-trade-184927668.html>

A reporter wrote about an exhibit at the Wessington Plantation in Tennessee, where some of her ancestors were slaves
http://www.cleveland.com/travel/index.ssf/2014/08/familys_slavery_past_comes_alive_for_plain_dealer_reporter_at_wessington_plantation_nashvilles_tennessee_state_museum.html

Antiques Roadshow appraisal of a gold watch presented to a man for standing up for black workers in Texas in 1903
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/archive/201404A28.html>

Period portrait of Senegalese man who was enslaved
<http://wydaily.com/2015/02/23/donation-to-jamestown-yorktown-foundation-helps-pay-for-rare-portrait-of-slave>

Heritage center in Charlottesville, Virginia, receives grant
<http://www.nbc29.com/story/27729459/jefferson-school-african-american-heritage-center-receives-7k-grant>

African American Civil War Memorial & Museum
<http://www.afroamcivilwar.org/>

“Save Our African American Treasures” event in Washington, D.C.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/smithsonian-studies-african-american-treasures-from-the-attic-and-garage/2014/11/08/68bd0674-6776-11e4-bb14-4cfea1e742d5_story.html

Library of Congress opens Rosa Parks memorabilia to public
<http://mashable.com/2015/02/03/rosa-parks-archive-library-of-congress/>

Location authorized for memorial to black Revolutionary War soldiers
http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/memorial-for-black-revolutionary-war-soldiers-finds-spot-on-mall-after-30-years/2014/10/16/e69e338a-54a0-11e4-809b-8cc0a295c773_story.html

Blacks in the American Revolution
<http://www.geni.com/projects/Blacks-in-the-American-Revolution/13507>

Blacks in the Continental Army
<https://www.scribd.com/doc/123231213/They-were-good-soldiers-African-Americans-Serving-in-the-Continental-Army>

Resource about slavery in the northern United States
<http://slavenorth.com/>

Online collection of documents includes items from “The Church in the Southern Black Community” and “North American Slave Narratives”
<http://blogs.lib.unc.edu/news/index.php/2015/01/introducing-docsouth-data-old-texts-for-new-readings/>

Free online course about history of the slave South
<https://www.coursera.org/course/slavesouth>

African Studies Association conference adds sessions on Black Judaism
<http://tabletmag.com/scroll/188012/judaism-added-to-the-african-studies-agenda>

Fugitive slave chapel in London, Ontario, Canada saved from demolition
<http://www.lfpres.com/2014/11/12/the-storied-fugitive-slave-chapel-is-transported-along-york-st-from-its-original-location-on-thames-st-to-its-new-location-on-grey-st-in-london>

Monument in Reims, France, honors Senegalese World War I soldiers
<http://roadstothegreatwar-ww1.blogspot.com/2015/01/monument-aux-heros-de-larmee-noire.html>

Free books listing deaths in Montemorelos, Mexico, including those of slaves
<http://www.wearecousins.info/2015/01/defunciones-de-montemorelos-1714-1774-personas-con-apellido-de-leon-familiares-esclavos-y-sirvientes-de-estos/>
<http://www.wearecousins.info/2015/02/de-leon-defunciones-de-montemorelos-1774-1800-by-juan-jesus-de-leon/>

Video of Nichelle Nichols talking about how Martin Luther King, Jr., supported her role of Uhura on *Star Trek*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLOZxOo5Czo>

Thanks to Carole Neal and Dera Williams for posting several of these links.

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All articles and manuscripts submitted for publication are evaluated and may be edited. Authors retain copyright. AAGSNC does not assume responsibility for errors of fact or interpretation.

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Correspondence on editorial matters, story submissions, and requests for permission to reprint articles may be sent to journal@aagsnc.org.

Articles and manuscripts suitable for publication include:

Manuscripts/Articles:

- African and black genealogy, cultural traditions, and philosophy
- Church histories
- Documentation of African oral traditions and African writings
- Documentation of black families
- Ancestry charts, family group records, personal family papers
- Miscellaneous topics of interest in researching black ancestors
- Resources and methods of research in Africa
- Mystery photos

Abstracts:

- Census transcriptions (federal, state, city, and county)
- Church records (baptisms, burials, marriages, etc.)
- Court records
- Manumission and freedom certificates
- Missionary and benevolent society records
- Military and pension records
- Newspaper transcriptions
- Plantation family papers relating to slaves
- Tax lists naming free blacks or slaves
- Voter registration lists



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