

# Family Times

January / February 2010

**NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER, AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

The Hudson County Genealogical Society and NJ Chapter Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Inc. (AAHGS) present:

## African-American Genealogy Research *with Michael Hait*

An informative presentation by Michael Hait, a professional genealogist living in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. With over ten years of experience specializing in African-American research, Civil War research and Maryland research, Michael will guide you through what resources are available and how to research your African-American ancestry.



**February 13, 2010**

**11:00 a.m., Secaucus Public Library and Business Resource Center  
1370 Paterson Plank Road, Secaucus, NJ 07094**

**Admission is FREE!**

**FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH! - Directions Inside**

## The President's Message



### NJ AAHGS OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

**Amanda Edwards**  
*President*  
**Barbara Polk Riley**  
*Vice-President*  
**Pauline Drake**  
*Secretary*  
**Marie Newberry**  
*Treasurer*  
**Lucius Bowser**  
*Program Chairperson*  
**Muriel Roberts**  
*Membership Chairperson*

E-Mail: afroamnjc@aol.com

**FAMILY TIMES**  
**Aaron L. Keys, Editor**  
Tel: 908-756-1672 Email:  
zip922@verizon.net

#### Meeting Dates 2009-2010

Sep 12	Feb 13
Oct 10	Mar 13
Nov 14	Apr 10
Dec 12	May 8
Jan 9	Jun 12

Dear Members and Friends,

Spring is almost here even though we see snow every once in a while and two ground hogs have given different reports.

We are very happy to have Barbara Polk Riley as our new vice-president and we are equally happy to see the rest of our board returning for the next term.

March is Women's History Month and hopefully, we will report on a woman from history that has been an example to us. It could even be your mother, grandmother or a woman living today. Tell us the example or lesson that they taught you.

In April, we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary of the NJ-AAHGS. Plans are being made for the occasion. Please send in any suggestions you may have for the anniversary.

My grand children got me interested in Face Book. It's a very interesting place to find new relatives and old friends. I really don't talk on space book, but I do look at the pictures and read some to the comments.

Come on out and join us. YOU MIGHT ENJOY YOURSELF.

*Amanda Edwards*  
President



The bimonthly newsletter is published ten times a year. No issues in July and August.

Newsletter Rates are **Free** with paid membership, **\$10 per year** to non-members.

Members are welcome to submit ideas or articles for the newsletter.

Deadlines for submission of materials are, the 15th of the month preceding publication, e.g., Sep 15 deadline for the Oct issue.

# BULLETIN BOARD

## Directions to the Secaucus Public Library

### **From Route 3 West**

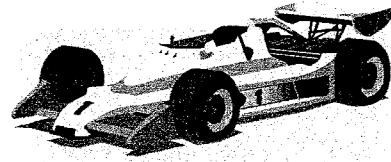
Bear to the right, to the Secaucus service road. Take the Secaucus exit after passing the Olive Garden Restaurant and Royal Motel. At top of hill, make a left at traffic light on to Paterson Plank Road. Proceed about half a block. The library will be on your right.

### **From Route 3 East**

Pass Giants Stadium and go over Route 3 bridge. Stay on your right and pass Shell Station. Take Secaucus service road. Make right at Sunoco Station. At next light, make right turn onto Paterson Plank Road. Bear to your right. Go two traffic lights; after passing First Street, the library will be on your left.

**The Secaucus Public Library &  
Business Resource Center**  
1379 Paterson Plank Road, Secaucus NJ  
07094

**Phone: (201) 330-2085**



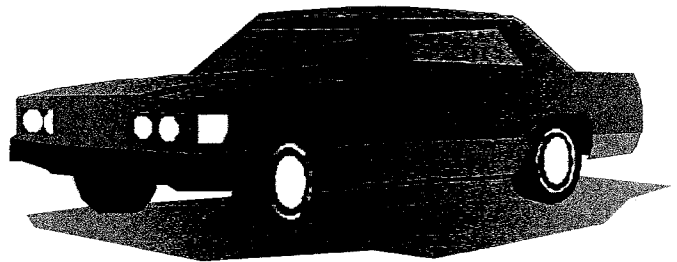
## Directions to the Secaucus Public Library

### **From NJ Turnpike North**

Take exit 16E (Secaucus/Lincoln Tunnel) and bear to your left. At traffic light make left turn on to Paterson Plank Road. Go 4 traffic lights, staying to your right. After passing First Street, the library will be on your left.

### **From NJ Turnpike South**

Take exit 17 (Secaucus Lincoln Tunnel) and bear right. At traffic light make left onto Paterson Plank Road. Go 4 traffic lights staying to your right. After passing First Street, the library will be on your left.



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

As you can see from the cover, we are entering into another phase of the chapter's history. Instead of our regular meeting on Saturday, Feb. 13. We will be meeting at the Secaucus Public Library and Business Resource Center, 1370 Paterson Plank Road. A special program, "African-American Genealogy Research" is to be presented. The program is co-sponsored by the Hudson County Genealogical Society and our Chapter. The meeting begins at 11am. We are asking, no, we are begging you to please come out and attend this special meeting. Directions will be found on page 3.

To borrow an advertising phrase,  
"This is NJC-AAHGS, this is BIG!"

## ELECTION RESULTS

The NJ Chapter of AAHGS (us), recently held an election of officers for 2010 / 2011. The results were as follows:

President:

Amanda Edwards

Vice President

Barbara Polk Riley

Treasurer

Marie Newberry

Secretary

Pauline Drake

Membership Chairperson

Muriel "Dee Dee" Roberts

Program Chairman

Lucius Bowser

Newsletter Editor

Aaron Keys

Email address: Afroamnjc@aol.com

## IT'S TIME TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

The U. S. Census Bureau wants to know that you exist and the Federal Government wants to know that you exist.

Every 10 years, the United States takes an official census and uses the numbers to allot congressmen to states, assign seats in the Electoral College and distribute an estimated \$400 billion in federal funds.

On April 1, the U. S. Census Bureau will take a count of residents, including undocumented aliens, prisoners, college students in the town where they go to school, residents of homeless shelters and members of traveling circuses, who will count as residents where they are performing that day.

Everyone is legally required to fill out the form. All information collected is kept confidential. The form will not ask about legal status or Social Security numbers--any form doing so is a fake, the Census Bureau warns.

C E L E B R A T E  
**BLACK HISTORY**  
 M O N T H

# Chapter Chatter

The Hudson County Genealogical Society (NJ) and The NJ Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., will be co-hosting Speaker Michael Hait, giving his presentation on African American research. Michael is the Coordinator for The Lowcountry Africana Resource Library, author Of the African-American Genealogy Examiner for Examiner. Com, and a professional Genealogy Speaker.

Secaucus Public Library and Business Resource Center, 1370 Paterson Plank Road, Secaucus NJ. See [www.secaucus.bccls.org](http://www.secaucus.bccls.org) for directions.

The meeting starts at 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

Please join us for a very informative meeting.

See you there!

## Did You Know That...

Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland is named after Fanny Jackson Coppin, the first African American principal of an educational institution?

Born into slavery, her aunt purchased her freedom for \$125. Coppin was noted for her exceptional determination to be well educated, mastering Latin, Greek, and mathematics after enrolling at Oberlin College in 1860.

She subsequently taught at Philadelphia's Institute for Colored Youth, and served as its principal for 32 years.

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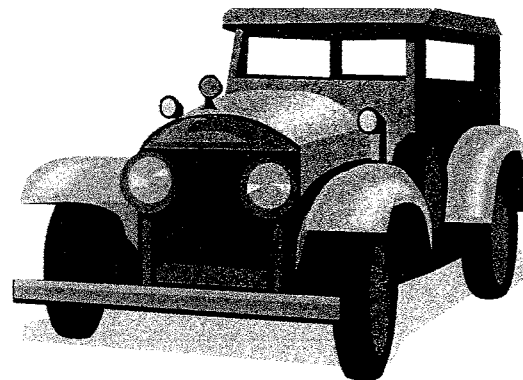
...Charles "Buddy" Bolden is generally regarded as the first jazz musician? A cornet player renowned for his unique ability to play louder than almost anybody else. Bolden led ragtime and blues bands through the streets of New Orleans. His music evolved, and in 1895 he began improvising in a musical style that later came to be known as "jazz".

## Did You Know That...

...There was an African-American-owned and operated automobile company in the U. S?

Charles Patterson escaped from slavery in West Virginia and settled in Greenfield, Ohio, where he established a carriage making business in the 1860s.

From 1915 to 1930, the Patterson-Greenfield Company manufactured its own line of cars, trucks and buses featuring many technical innovations. The company closed during the Great Depression.



## The Book Nook



By Bernice Jackson aka "Bunny" "

### Barack and Michelle Portrait of an American Marriage

By Christopher Andersen

Published by Harper Collins, NYC, 2009

This is an intimate and ultimately riveting look at their unique partnership, and the humor, faith, fortitude, and grace that defines it. It is above all, an extraordinary American love story.

Among the many intriguing insights and stunning revelations:

- details of the Obama's courtship and marriage
- And the lovers who went before
- Early tragedies that shaped both Barack's and Michelle's personalities, and how these events haunt them today
- Barack's rootless childhood and the true extent of his early drug use
- The pressures and delights of raising two young girls in the relentless glare of the media

This book is an easy read and has pictures that I never saw in the media.

*Bunny*

# F Y I

For Your Information

By now all members have received the letter and applications for the new year 2010.

Please, by all means, remit your membership fee as soon as possible, if not sooner. The treasurer is waiting for you to do so. Take the envelope out of that dresser drawer, write your check, and mail it right away!

If you do not renew on time you will miss the publications in the new year. You will not receive the National newsletter nor will you receive the most important of all, *Family Times!* So get up off your rear end and take care of the necessary business. So do it now! There's a mail box awaiting just for your letter.



## ***THE FIRST BLACK INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGY SUMMIT***

The First Black International Genealogy Summit was held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, October 29-31, 2009.

The focus was to bring all of the Black genealogical societies across the US, Canada and Caribbean together to participate in this joint conference of sharing family history.

The 3 day summit included a networking reception, opening session with two speakers. 30 workshops covering a range of genealogy topics, a variety of vendors and exhibitors to further allow the participants to add to their research tools, time to embrace our African heritage by encouraging African attire, banquet and luncheon keynote speakers to further focus on the importance of understanding our past, present and future in family research. Reception at the African/African American Historical Museum and last but not least will be the fertile grounds for the next IBGS.

Our New Jersey Chapter had three members present at the conference, Your Editor, Mr & Mrs Howard (Pauline) Drake.

The following is a look at the conference as seen through the notes of the Drakes.

### History of Fort Wayne:

History informs us decision making, collecting data on churches in your area, a church in Fort Wayne. They had as a fund-raiser, "The Womanless Wedding". The bride was a male. Talk to older members of a church and ask them how it use to be. There was an underground railroad in Fort Wayne. 1870 census has slave owners name, look at court records, wills and deeds. Check also U. S. Colored Troops, military records.

Family Health History - Dr. Miller S. Edwards.  
The question is why is Family Health History part of health care?

Get your gene test.

There will be long time benefits for patients and their family if the data is accurately collected and stored now for current and future use.

Tracing Your African American Ancestry -  
Frazine Taylor, presenter.

Researching Contraband Camps -  
Tony Burroughs, presenter.

"Gateway to Family Research" records of the Panama Canal.

R. Washington, presenter.

The banquet was great. The keynote speaker was, Dorothy S. Redford. I (Pauline) was able to win a book as a table prize. (Ed. Note: As usual).

The luncheon was very nice. The speaker was Hana Stith, who founded the African American Museum in Fort Wayne.

The library (The Allen County Public Library) was very helpful in tracing genealogy.

Howard and I went to seven workshops, the banquet and the luncheon. We also went to the Black Museum. They had an excellent presentation. I was able to trace my great-great grandmother when she was 16 years old in Alabama.

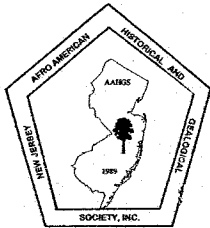
Genealogicaly Yours,

Pauline and Howard Drake.

c/o Aaron L. Keys  
573 E. Front St Apt A  
Plainfield NJ 07060-1411



The Newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc.



The next regular meeting of AAHGS, New Jersey Chapter, will be on **Saturday March 13, 2010 at 12 noon**. We meet at the Afro-American Historical Museum, 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Greenville Branch of the Jersey City Public Library, Jersey City NJ.



## Many Happy Returns of the Day



February 2 Mildred Lipscombe

18 Kimberly Matthews

22 Howard Drake