

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 2, Number 4

April 1990

MEMBERS, FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Are Invited to Attend

A MEETING AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 1990-1992

Saturday, April 21, 1990

12 O'Clock Noon

At The

AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM
1841 Kennedy Boulevard
Jersey City, New Jersey (2nd Floor Greenville Library)

The following Officers and Chairpersons of the New Jersey Chapter, Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. will be installed by our National President,

SYLVIA COOKE MARTIN

President.....Elizabeth Peale Johnson
Vice-President.....Theodore Brunson
Secretary.....Janice Jenkins
Treasurer and Finance Chairperson..Odell Washington
Program Chairman..... Glenn D. Cunningham
Membership Chairman.....Lucius A. Bowser
By-Laws Chairman..... Arnold E. Brown
Liaison - New York and New Jersey
Chapters, AAHGS.....Lloyd E. Washington
Coordinator, Assistance to
New Genealogists.....Theresa L.Thomas

REFRESHMENTS

Carlos Edwards has offered to videotape this event for our Archives.

RSVP -If you plan to attend, please advise Lloyd E.Washington, of the Program Committee (201) 763-4949, or the Museum (201) 547-5262 by Monday, April 16th, the number of persons who will be attending with you. This will help in planning refreshments. Thank you very much.

PLEASE NOTEIMPORTANT

The New Jersey Chapter AAHGS will not hold a meeting in May. inasmuch as some of the officers and members will be attending the National Conference, AAHGS, in Washington, D. C. Please note your calendars that the New Jersey Chapter will not meet in May.

Saturday, June 9, 1990 - A visit to the National Archives, Northeastern Region, Building 22, Military Ocean Terminal, Bayonne, N. J., has been planned for this meeting date. Due to space limitations, the group will be limited to 25 members and friends. Please note the following schedule of events for that day and advise as soon as possible -if you plan to attend -either at the April meeting, or by calling the Museum at (201) 547-5262, or Lloyd E. Washington of the Program Committee, at (201) 763-4949.

- 9:00 am Coffee and General Orientation at the Afro-American Historical Museum, 1841 Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, New Jersey (2nd floor Greenville library).
- 9:45 am Leave Museum for National Archives Branch.
- 10:00 am Arrive at National Archives.
- 10:30 am Orientation by National Archives staff.
- 3:00 pm Wrap-up - "Where Do We Go From Here?"
- 3:30 pm Leave National Archives - return home.

There are soda dispensing machines in the Archives for refreshment, and everyone is requested to bring a sandwich or fruit for lunch.

In the meantime, those who are planning to participate and for whom this will be the first visit to the Archives, please note that you are to provide pencils (ball points and other types of pens are not allowed) and paper. Also, have available the names of your father and mother, town, county and State in which they resided. Suggest you begin with the 1910 Census. You will be given assistance by Theresa L. Thomas, Coordinator of assistance to new genealogists, and other members of NJAAHGS who are familiar with researching at the Archives.

We thank Theodore Brunson for making arrangements with the National Archives Branch for this visit.

Saturday, May 19, 1990 - The Genealogy Club of the New Jersey Historical Society, 230 Broadway, Newark, N.J. 07104, will be sponsoring a Seminar on Genealogy and Computers, 12:45 PM - Registration. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Seminar. \$10.00 for NJHS Members; \$15.00 for Non-Members. There will be five presenters on Genealogy Bulletin Boards and Information Services and available software. This will be an important seminar for those who are considering computer genealogy.

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OFFICERS

ELIZABETH PEALE JOHNSON, President, is a native of Glen Ridge, New Jersey. She has been involved in genealogical research for twelve years and travelled to Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina in the search for her ancestors. She is also interested in tracing her roots to Africa and travelled to Kenya and Senegal and visited Alex Haley's ancestral village in Gambia. Betty (as she is commonly known) received a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History from University College, Rutgers University, and a Master's degree in Counselor Education from New York University. She retired in 1984 as Director of Admissions and Professor Emeritus from Orange County Community College, Middletown, New York. She is affiliated with numerous genealogical and historical societies and recently received a nomination for the position of secretary of the Genealogy Club of the New Jersey Historical Society. In addition to tracing her family history, Betty is researching the history of Afro-Americans in Sussex County (N.J.), the county in which she resides.

THEODORE BRUNSON, Vice President, is a native of Jersey City, New Jersey. He has served as Director of the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Society since 1984. He has worked diligently to incorporate Afro-American history into school curricula and programs and to stimulate cultural awareness among Afro-Americans and the public at large. Prior to 1984 he was Assistant Treasurer of the William Carlos Williams Center for the Performing Arts. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Meadowlands Museum, Rutherford, N.J.; and Executive Board of the Jersey City Branch N.A.A.C.P., also the Bergen County Historical Society, New Jersey Historical Society and New York Historical Society. He is particularly interested in encouraging Afro-American children to learn more about their culture and heritage. He also served on his local Board of Education.

JANICE JENKINS, Secretary, is the fifth of eight children. She has plenty of relatives, and as an African-American has a tradition of ancestor worship. For these two reasons, she is very excited and interested about tracing her family history. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Emerson College in Boston and teaches acting and speech in a local community center in Jersey City. She is a founding member of a performing arts group known as the Hadley Players and a member of the American Community Theatre. Her performances have included the role of Amanda Sage in FRIENDS at the Billie Holiday Theatre and the role of Hilda Redd in THE TRIAL OF DR. BECK at the New Federal Theatre. She also appeared in the role of the school principal in the film CLARENCE AND ANGEL, on PBS. Currently she can be seen as an emergency room nurse in the film, FEAR, ANXIETY, AND DEPRESSION. Janice is a beginning genealogist and would like to thank the many experienced members of NJAAHGS for all their help and advice.

ODELL WHALEY WASHINGTON, Treasurer and Finance Chairperson, was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina and reared in Jersey City, New Jersey. She attended Lincoln High School and Jersey City Junior College. She received her Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, University College. After a 32-year career at Chase Manhattan Bank in New York City, she retired as a Second Vice-President, Branch Banking, on December 31, 1987. Odell's interest in genealogy was stimulated by her husband, Lloyd Washington. She serves as his research assistant.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

GLENN D. CUNNINGHAM, Program Chairman, was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Jersey City State College and completed Master of Arts requirements in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University. He is one of the few African-American Superior Officers of the Jersey City Police Department, in which he has been employed since 1967. He has been an official in Hudson County government, having been elected to the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders for a one-year term in 1974 and for a three-year term in 1975. He was elected to the City Council of Jersey City for two four-year terms in 1981 and in 1985, serving as Council President in his second term. Glenn has been conducting his genealogical research for thirteen years and is researching in Gloucester and Halifax Counties, Virginia; Person County, North Carolina; and Orangeburg, South Carolina. He is a member of the National Genealogical Society and the Genealogy Club of the New Jersey Historical Society, and has served as Trustee of the Afro-American Historical Society Museum for four years.

LUCIUS A. BOWSER, R.P., M.P.H., Membership and Public Relations Committee Chairman, was born and educated in East Orange, New Jersey. A graduate of the Rutgers University College of Pharmacy, he has completed a Masters Degree program in Public Health at Columbia University and has also completed courses at the Universities of Rhode Island, Pittsburgh and Tennessee. Lucius is a graduate of the Essex County Police Academy and the Federal Bureau of Narcotics and has been a lecturer in Drug Law for the New Jersey State Police Academy. He has been employed by the Office of Drug Control, New Jersey State Department of Health, for twenty-nine years, the last eleven years as the Chief of the Office of Drug Control. Lucius has been researching the Bowser Surname on the paternal side of the family and has been successful in tracing ancestors back to 1802. He is aware of two Bowsers who served in the Revolutionary War and is presently researching in Suffolk and Cumberland Counties of Virginia and also Halifax County, North Carolina.

ARNOLD E. BROWN, By-Laws Chairman, is a native of Englewood, New Jersey, and a member of a family which has had a history of more than three hundred years in Englewood, prior to the Revolutionary War. He received A.B. and J.D. degrees and is a business management consultant. He has researched and recorded the histories of several families buried in the recently restored Black 19th-century cemetery, Gethsemane, in Little Ferry, New Jersey, as well as many other aspects of the African-American experience in New York and New Jersey. Arnold is a member of the Bergen County Historical Society, Alpha Phi Alpha, and Gideons International.

LLOYD E. WASHINGTON, Liaison - New York and New Jersey Chapters, AAHGS, was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He attended schools in Brooklyn and Manhattan. He retired from the New York City Transit Authority in 1985 as a Deputy Superintendent, Power Department, Subway Division, after thirty years of service. He has been interested in Genealogy since 1972 and actively researching since 1987. Areas of research are New York State, Virginia, and Connecticut. He would like to publish a booklet about Black Troops in the Union Army of the Civil War. Lloyd is a member of the New Jersey Historical Society, Connecticut Genealogists, Inc. and the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Society of Jersey City.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS - CONTINUED

THERESA L. THOMAS, Coordinator, Assistance to New Genealogists, is a native of Englewood, New Jersey, and attended Englewood schools. She is employed as Secretary to the Director of College Athletics at the Meadowlands Sports Complex. Theresa has been involved in genealogical research for eleven years and is researching in the states of Ohio, Virginia, Kentucky, Texas and Oklahoma.

WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS

Nathaniel P. Coleman
39 Hampton Terrace
Orange, N.J. 07050

Marjorie E. Jordan
1230 Morrison Avenue #1M
Bronx, N.Y. 10472

Maxine Hill
1171 Main Street, 6F
Rahway, N.J. 07065

Janie E. Stout
P.O. Box 243
Asbury Park, N.J. 07712

ANNOUNCEMENT

Saturday, June 2, 1990 - ANNUAL LUNCHEON of the AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY/MUSEUM, will be held at the Hi-Hat Restaurant in Bayonne, New Jersey. All officers, members and friends of NJAAHGS are welcome to attend. Luncheon reservations are \$30.00 per person. Please call the Museum at (201) 547-5262 to make reservations. Let's support the Museum with our presence at an NJAAHGS table!

DID YOU KNOW?

Compiled by Lloyd E. Washington

James D. Carr was the first Black graduate of Rutgers University from the class of 1892? Carr became an Attorney and Assistant Corporation Counsel to the City of New York. (From Freedom Not Far Distant by Clement A. Price).

The African-American room at the Newark Library is dedicated to providing information and services on, or about, the African-American experience. Its collection invites browsing as well as providing a foundation for intensive research. You are invited by Librarian James Brown to visit. (From The Second Century, Newark Public Library publication, Vol. 1, No. 1, February 1990). The library is located at 5 Washington Street, P.O. Box 630, Newark, New Jersey 07101-0630.

Please forward Newsletter items to Elizabeth Peale Johnson, R.D. 1, Box 638.
Sussex, N.J. 07461 (201) 875-4802.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
Federal Archives Branch
Building 22, Military Ocean Terminal
Avenue E and 32nd Street
Bayonne, New Jersey
Telephone: (201) 823-7545

New York State, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and The Virgin
Islands Census on film (1790-1910)

Printed Census indices most States

1910, 1900, 1880 Soundex Indices

1910 Census enumeration district descriptions

1850-1880 Federal Mortality Census Schedules

Records of the Veterans Administration such as Schedules
enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of the Civil War-1890,
Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrent application
files

War Department collection of Revolutionary War records of the
Adjutant General Office

Records of the Bureau of the Customs

Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service

This field branch office serves New Jersey, New York, Puerto
Rico, and the Virgin Islands. They do have some records from
other States, but very little. This office is one of eleven
throughout the country.

(The above information was supplied by Lloyd E. Washington when he reported
on the National Archives and other repositories at our November 11th meeting
last Fall)