

New Jersey Chapter AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 3, Number 4

April 1991

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AAHGS

Will Meet

Saturday, April 13, 1991

at the

Afro-American Historical Society Museum
1841 Kennedy Boulevard
Jersey City, N.J.
(2nd fl., Greenville Library)

10:30 am Executive Board Meeting

12:00 pm Regular Meeting Agenda

Announcements

Reports - Officers and

Committee Chair-
persons

Appointment of Nominating

Committee - 1991-1993

Election of Officers

PROGRAM:

BILLY PRUITT will speak on

"Planning a Family Reunion."

Billy is the organizer of the Pruitt Family Reunions, Inc., which sponsors annual reunions at various sites throughout the United States. In 1990 the event took place in Charlotte, N.C., and the 1991 reunion will be held in Greenville, S.C. Billy has been involved in researching his family history for many years.

DICK DICKENSON invited members of the (Thomas V.) Jackson Cousins Association to join us at this meeting. He is the first president of the Family Association, which plans to make a joint presentation. Dick is a Certified Genealogical Records Researcher and is the author of Entitled! Abstracts of Register of Free Negroes and Mulattoes in Montgomery Co., Va.

ATTENTION:- PLEASE NOTE RE: THE APRIL 13th MEETING -

- (1) Bring a sandwich and fruit or dessert. Beverage will be provided.
- (2) Due to budgetary cutbacks and accompanying staff reductions, the Greenville Library in which we meet closes for lunch period. If you find you are delayed and cannot arrive by 12:30 p.m., call us from the public telephone in front of the Library, and someone will come down to admit you. The Museum telephone number is (201) 547-5262.

NOTICE - The next Newsletter will be published for the month of June. A Chapter meeting will not be held in the month of May as a number of officers and members will be attending the 1991 AAHGS Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Call Betty Johnson for details if you decide to attend the conference (201)875-4802.

GREETINGS TO OUR NEW AAHGS PRESIDENT,- FATH RUFFINS OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mrs. Ruffins is replacing our former President, Sylvia Cooke Martin, who resigned due to health reasons. Mrs. Ruffins has served the Society in a number of capacities. We are all grateful to her for consenting to provide continuity in leadership to our organization.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:-

John Clay, 600 Broad St., Newark, N.J.
07102

Nathaniel Johnson, Jr., 91 Harrison
Ave., Montclair, N.J. 07042

James and Adele Kelsey, 1 Hempstead
Dr., Cranbury, N.J. 08512

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - COMING EVENTS

April 12, 13 & 14 -African-American Family Reunion Conference at Temple University School of Social Administration, 13th St. & Cecil B. Moore Ave., Phila. For registration form contact Betty Johnson (201) 875-4802.

April 20 -Genealogy Workshop - "Oral History - The African Griot," at the Countee Cullen Library, 104 W. 137th St. at Lenox Ave., NYC, presented by the Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter AAHGS. For details contact President, Antonia Cottrell Martin, (212) 799-0322.

May 2-4 - AAHGS Annual Conference, Washington, D. C. For details if you decide to attend, contact NJ-AAHGS officers or chairpersons listed on page 4 of this newsletter.

May 18 - 10 am - Genealogy Club of the New Jersey Historical Society, 230 Broadway, Newark, N.J. "Research in Westchester County," - Speaker, Dorothy Avery.

June 8 - Genealogy Workshop at the National Archives, Northeast Region, Bldg. 22, Military Ocean Terminal, Bayonne, NJ, by the NJ-AAHGS and Jean Sampson Scott GNY AAHGS Chapters - 9:30 am to 3:15 p.m. See Registration Form, Page 3 of this Newsletter.

September 8 - NJ-AAHGS Meeting - 10:30 am Executive Board Meeting: 12:00 pm General Meeting and Program, - Reports from AAHGS Annual Conference.

October 12 - NJ-AAHGS Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. Guest Speaker- Dr. Clement Price, Rutgers University Professor and author of "Freedom Not So Far Distant."

JOINT PLANNING

Representatives of NJ-AAHGS, Jean Sampson Scott GNY AAHGS, and the Afro-American Genealogy Group of Philadelphia, met on Saturday, February 23, 1991, to discuss (Continued - Next Column)

JOINT PLANNING (Continued)

the potential for sponsoring joint programs in the future. The meeting was held at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N.J., and was attended by NJ-AAHGS representatives Lucius A. Bowser, Odell Washington and Lloyd E. Washington and Betty P. Johnson; Jean Sampson Scott GNY representatives Antonia C. Martin and Stanton F. Biddle; and Philadelphia Afro-American Genealogy Group representatives William H. Wormley, James F. McCoy and John Logan.

NJ-AAHGS SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS

March 7 and 9 - Glenn D. Cunningham taught a course on "Climbing Your Family Tree," and "Jersey City African-American History, 1600-1800's" at St. Aloysius Parish of Jersey City.

March 21 - Betty P. Johnson spoke on "Beginning Genealogy," at a meeting of the Morris County Ecumenical Association at the Wilson School, Mountain Lakes, N.J.

March 23 - Theodore Brunson discussed "African traditions in African-American Cemeteries," at a meeting of the Jean Sampson Scott GNY AAHGS in the Countee Cullen Library, NYC.

April 20 - Lloyd E. Washington will give a talk on "Colored Troops Serving in the Civil War," at a meeting of the Jean Sampson Scott GNY AAHGS in the Countee Cullen Library, 104 W. 137 St NYC.

April 27 - Betty P. Johnson will speak on "Beginning Genealogy," at the annual meeting of the Sparta League of Women Voters. (Sparta, N.J.)

May 18- Lloyd E. Washington will discuss "Colored Troops in the Civil War," at the Westchester County African-American History Conference, at the Westchester Archives and Records Center, Elmsford, NY

May 2 - R. Boulton Dickson will be a presenter at the AAHGS Annual conference, Washington, D.C.

ANNOUNCEMENT

A GENEALOGY WORKSHOP AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, NORTHEAST REGION, BLDG. 22, MILITARY OCEAN TERMINAL, BAYONNE, NJ WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1991 FROM 9:30 AM TO 3:15 PM.

SPONSORED BY

THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER OF AAHGS INC AND THE JEAN SAMPSON SCOTT GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER OF AAGHS INC.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS FREE WORKSHOP. THE ARCHIVES WILL BE OPEN FOR AAHGS MEMBERS AND REGISTERED GUESTS ONLY.

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH BEVERAGE MACHINES ON PREMISES

MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:
AAHGS WORKSHOP
% L. WASHINGTON
18 LINDSLEY AVENUE
MAPLEWOOD, NJ 07040

REGISTRATION FORM
PLEASE PRINT

YES I WILL ATTEND _____ AAHGS MEMBER YES/NO _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

BRING PENCILS (NO PENS), PADS, NAMES, CENSUS YEARS OF THE PEOPLE YOU WANT TO RESEARCH.

INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS PACKS WILL BE SENT UPON RECEIPT OF REGISTRATION FORM. MAIL EARLY, LIMITED SPACE.

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NJ-AAHGS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN 1991

NJ-AAHGS is in the midst of a membership campaign which will end on June 15, 1991. A special mailing to our current members by Campaign Chairman Lucius A. Bowser included information about a competition in which a prize will be awarded to the person bringing in the highest number of new members. The prize will be a desirable reference book useful in genealogical research. For further information, contact Lucius during the day at his office 1-609-984-1308.

WELCOME NEWS

Coy D Robbins, President of the Indiana Chapter AAHGS, is back in action after his illness with an issue of his Newsletter, Ebony Lines.

Recent newsletters received from the Cleveland AAHGS Chapter and the Afro-American Genealogy Group of Philadelphia.

The Journal of the Desert Griot, a publication of the African-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Arizona Chapter, Winter 1990 Edition.

ALSO GOOD NEWS!

Amanda Edwards, NJ-AAHGS member, is elated that her husband received a kidney for a transplant and is recuperating from his surgery.

Glenn D. Cunningham was successful in being restored to the position of Captain in the Jersey City Police Department.

NJ-AAHGS Directory (All 201 Area Code except where otherwise noted)

Elizabeth Peale Johnson, Pres. 875-4802
Theodore Brunson, V. Pres. 547-5262
Janice Jenkins, Secy. 451-4940
Odell Washington, Treas. & Finance Chr. 763-4949
Theresa L. Thomas, Coord. Asst. to New Genealogists 460-4355
Lisa Crawley, Editor, Journal (908) 354-1353

REMINDER

Ballots will be mailed to NJ-AAHGS members for ratification of amendments to By-Laws. Please return ballots by the date requested in instructions given. Thank you for your cooperation.

QUERIES

Seeking information on the Heavenly Rest Memorial Park Cemetery founded in 1944 in East Hanover (Morris Co., NJ) (CHERYL TURKINGTON, MORRISTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1 Miller Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960.)

Seeking place or places where information on followers of FATHER DIVINE is stored. (R. BOULTON DICKENSON, 140 Tyson ST., Staten Island, NY 10301) Note - Thanks to Claudine Brinkley Austin in providing information on Father Divine's life.

Seeking birth or death records of bride Sadie Merrill, age 31, b. Flemington, N.J.; parents - George Merrill; mother's maiden name, Bertha Worman; groom William Mathews, age 41, born Woodwill, N.J.; parents - Edwin Mathews; mother's maiden name, Susan Warwick; minister: Edwin W Miller; (ERNESTINE G. LUCAS, 725 Amelia St., Springfield, Ohio 45506).

DOING GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE ALBANY, NY AREA? - Consider Bed and Breakfast at FARVIEW, Athens, N.Y. - Faces Hudson River-Gothic Victorian restored. Year-round hospitality - 17-room house. Contact Mary D. Hazel (201) 672-1430 Week-days.

KINSHIPS - GENEALOGICAL BULLETIN BOARD - AFRO AMERICAN: Genealogy Section - Problems and announcements - Computer and Modem required. (201) 676-7066 - BOB GLEASON.

Glenn D. Cunningham, Research Projects Chr. & Prog. Asst. 433-3487
Lloyd E. Washington, Program Chr. & Liaison, NY & NJ Chapters, AAHGS 763-4949
Lucius A. Bowser, Membership & Publicity Chr. 763-5892
Arnold E. Brown, By-Laws Chr and Asst. Editor, Journal 567-4628

(PLEASE FORWARD ALL ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH TO: Elizabeth Peale Johnson, 124 Mt. Salem Road, Wantage, NJ 07461)

(Note - This is a corrected version of the Interview with LAMARR ROBINSON which was included in the March 1991 NJ-AAHGS Newsletter):

AN INTERVIEW WITH NJ-AAHGS MEMBER

LAMARR ROBINSON

Lamarr Robinson began this interview by saying, "I got started in genealogy by joining in fellowship with the New Jersey Chapter AAHGS. I began my research after the October 1990 Annual Genealogy Workshop."

Lamarr is a resident and native of Jersey City (Hudson County) New Jersey. His father, Joseph Robinson, was born in Middle Township (Orangeburg Co.,) S.C. and his mother, Sarah Elizabeth (Thompson) Robinson, was born in Washington, North Carolina. His brothers and sisters include Gregory Joseph Robinson, Terence Robinson and Michele Robinson, all residents of Jersey City, and Gwendolyn (Robinson) Garnes, a resident of Cranberry/Princeton Township, N.J.

The fact that both parents and many of the older relatives in the family are still living is an advantage to Lamarr, who ranks oral history research among the five important methods he relied on as a beginning genealogist.

Lamarr said that he obtained an album in 1977-78 in which Alex Haley told the story of his search for his roots. Lamarr commented, "I set it on tape so I could listen to it everywhere I went by way of my Walkman. This tape and my desire to know my family history were the driving forces behind my getting started in genealogy."

In addition to oral history, Lamarr found obituaries, census records, birth certificates and death certificates important in his research. He said that in the beginning he devoted five hours a day, four days a week, to his investigations. He has narrowed this to spending five hours a day in research Mondays and Wednesdays. Lamarr is a self-starter and is self-disciplined. These are personal characteristics which are valuable in researching family history.

The challenges Lamarr faces includes finding the maiden name of one of his ancestors, Lavicey Glover (Orangeburg, S. C., Middle Township, 1870 Federal Census report). She is said to be of Native-American ancestry (Cherokee Nation). He is also seeking the parents of another ancestor, Charles Robinson (Orangeburg, S. C., Middle Township) and the maiden name of Charles' first wife, Maggie (Margaret) and his second wife, Anna.

Lamarr's advice to young people is to ask questions of your elders while they are living and well. Put your priorities in place, become organized, and be diligent in your research. When possible, record information on audiotapes or hand-written fact sheets. Don't leave it to memory.!! BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR HIDDEN CLUES. (Interviewer - Elizabeth Peale Johnson)

REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORD OF A SOMERSET COUNTY SLAVE

The first part of an article under the above title was carried in the March 1991 NJ-AAHGS Newsletter. This article was written by the Editor of the Somerset County Historical Society Quarterly and published in 1912 in Vol. III, pp 184-190. NJ-AAHGS Member R. Boulton Dickenson discovered it in the course of researching records in Somerset County.

CONTINUATION FROM MARCH 1991 Newsletter:

p. 186

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORD OF SAMUEL SUTPHIN, SLAVE

'At beginning of the War was a slave to Guisbert Bogert of Somerset co. on the Raritan. Caspar Berger of Readington proposed to buy him of Bogert on condition of doing militia duty in Berger's stead during the War. I agreed to the terms, and Bogert sold me to Berger for ~~92~~ 92,10, which I believe was paid. Berger had been out one month, and I afterward was to serve in his place. Capt. Matthias Lane commanded the militia co. and Col. Taylor the Regiment. This was the 6th year of the War. Berger bought me in the season of plane (?) seed sowing. Berger went out one month after I went to live with him, in Capt. Lane's Co. Immediately after I had finishing planting 4 acres corn, Co. was (classed?) and I took my turn with others; sometimes 12, sometimes 15 or 20 went at once. I believe Capt. Lane went on my 1st tour; marched thro' Boundbrook and Scotch Plains and Newark to Communipaw, where we were stationed 1 mo.; large militia force was there; a Col. Hunt, Col. Schamp, Gen. Dickinson, Gen. Blair (?). Staid a month in sight of New York -- guard duty.

'Second tour in hay and harvest time. Capt Jacob Ten Eyck stationed at Communipaw; 1 mo. duty. The Asia (?) was then in the harbor. British fleet came into N. York harbor whilst on this tour. A large body of militia out. Frelinghuysen and Schamp were out.

'Third tour, 1 mo. Believes Capt. Lane commanded. Station and duty the same as before. British fleet came into the bay and harbor when on his 2nd tour. Large force of British was out. Was at the Long Island battle in Aug't; and Lane, and Col. Frelinghuysen. Lord Stirling had command of Jersey troops; our comp'y was in the heat of the battle. In the battle and after our defeat we were all dispersed. I found a colored man who took me from L. I. to Staten Isl'd in a skiff with two others of my Co., viz., Wm. Van Syckle and Jacob Johnson, a man of our age. The blk. man piloted us across Staten Isl'd to Eliz'town point, where we crossed to E.T.; came through this town and by Wheatsheaf and Short Hills, Quibbletown and Bound Brook, and so home in about 3 days after the battle. 2 of our co. were taken prisoners in this battle, viz., Peter Low and John VanCampen; they were exchanged some months after and got home.

'His 3rd tour now begins under Capt. Lane as before.

'4th tour under Capt. Ph. Van Arsdale toward Pluckemin in frosty weather, fall of the year. This was probably in October. Stationed at Commun'w and Bergen Point.

'5th tour was in very cold weather; was marched up along the Millstone under Capt. Van Arsdale and Col. Schamp about New Year's holidays; out a month.

'Cornel's Lane of our Co. was shot through the hip the morning after the battle by the accidental discharge of a musket by one Todd. The ball passed in near the navel and came out near the back, as he was lying near a sapling. I assisted, with Thomas Oliver, to carry him home in a litter between two horses, made with poles and a bed thereon. (Continued in June NJ-AAHGS Newsletter)