

AAHGS

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC

Volume 6, Number 4

NEWSLETTER

April 1994

REMINDER

NJ-AAHGS will meet Saturday, April 9, 1994, at Noon at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N. J.

10:30 a.m. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will meet.

12 Noon - Refreshments - Bring brown bag lunch. Beverage will be provided.

Program

"Telling Our Story Through Art"

Presenters:

Gladys Grauer, Artist, a Contemporary of Artist Jacob Lawrence.

Theodore Brunson, Director of the Afro-American Historical Society Museum who will discuss African American quilts as an art form.

Members, families and friends are welcome.

REMINDER: Please call the Museum from the telephone in front of the building if the door is locked. (547-5262) Someone will come down and admit you.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL



Everyone welcome to join the Jean Sampson Scott Greater NY Chapter who will be hosting the May 21, 1994, meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of African American Genealogy Groups.

10:00 a.m. Revised Schedule:

We will meet at 6 World Trade Center, where Dr. Sherrill Wilson will present a comprehensive program about the Lower Manhattan/Negro Burial Ground.

Dutch Treat Brunch will follow at a local restaurant within walking distance.

2-4 p.m. Mid-Atlantic meeting and visit at National Archives Branch (walking distance from restaurant).

Information distributed about the burial site indicates that as many as twenty thousand bodies were buried here and that three hundred and twenty-five remains have been unearthed. Many are said to be first-generation African-Americans, and over 40% are children.

Note: A list of those planning to attend will be needed for World Trade Center and Brunch.

From the President

By Lloyd E. Washington

I think the winter of '94 is finally over. Carolyn Whitley, our Program Chairman, is trying to reschedule the speakers that we missed because of the inclement weather. Watch the Newsletter for new dates.

About 15 NJ-AAHGS members have indicated that they will attend the 1994 AAHGS Conference in Washington, D. C. We are looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. It should be a great Conference!

The 1994 issue of our Journal, THE JERSEY HERITAGE, will be out by April 25, 1994. Join me in thanking the Journal Committee (Elizabeth P. Johnson, Chr., Lisa Crawley, Richard B. Dickenson, James N. Conyers, Sandra Bolden and Odell W. Washington) for their very hard work in accomplishing this task. I would also like to thank all of the members and friends who supported this effort with ADS. The Journal will be sent to libraries, historical societies, and archives in and out of the State of New Jersey. It is in keeping with our goal to write the history of our people in our State from our point of view. I trust that you will support the sale of the Journal.

Remember to send in your queries to Amanda Edwards, Chr. Since the Newsletter is mailed to 14 States, you may get a reply. Give it a try.

See you at the next meeting, meeting, April 9, 1994.

ARCHIVE MANIA

by

Lisa Crawley

Hats off to Lucius Bowser who answered the call for clippings! The archives received a whopping 50-plus articles for its files. If you are nesting on clippings, please send them to: Lisa Crawley, 1090 Mary St., Elizabeth, N. J. 07201, or bring them to the next meeting.

Make sure to look for the travel display at the April meeting. On hand will be a number of travel guides featuring African American historic sites from around the country, including: Boston Black Heritage Trail, Philadelphia's African American Historical and Cultural Guide, Virginia and the Presence of the Past, and Jamaica Cultural Mecca, Natural Wonder.

Family Reunions

Please provide us with the following information about your family reunion:

Name (Names) of Family or Families sponsoring the event

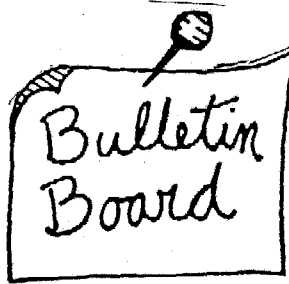
Dates

Place

Number of previous reunions sponsored

Theme

(Above for May newsletter)



April 9, 1994 - The New Jersey Chapter will meet 12 Noon at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N.J.
Program:
"Telling Our Story Through Art."

Presenters:

Gladys Grauer, Artist, a contemporary of Jacob Lawrence.

Theodore Brunson, Director of the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, who will discuss Afro-American quilts as an art form.

April 16, 1994 - The Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter AAHGS will sponsor a Harlem Walking Tour by Dr. Sherrill Wilson, 1-3 p.m., starting from the Schomburg, 515 Lenox Avenue, 135th St., NYC. For information, call (212)799-0322,

April 16, 1994 - Spring conference of the Virginia Genealogical Society. Theme: Virginia Records: A Pot-Pourri, at Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Va. For information write: Spring Conference, Virginia Genealogical Society, 5001 West Broad St., Suite 115, Richmond, Va. 23230-3023.

April 30, 1994 - The Monmouth County Genealogy Club will sponsor a Genealogical & Historical Society

"Brainstorming Workshop," at Monmouth County Library Headquarters, 125 Symmes Drive (off Route 9), Manalapan, N. J. For further details, call Nancy O. Heydt (908) 776-5909 evenings.

April 29 - May 1, 1994, AAHGS Conference at the Howard University Inn, Washington, D. C.

Through April 17, 1994 - Exhibition - Ancient Nubia Egypt's Rival in Africa - At the Newark Museum, 49 Washington St., Newark, NJ. Call (201) 596-6550 for information.

June 1 - 4, 1994 - 1994 National Genealogical Society Conference, Houston, Texas. Write for brochure: 1994 NGS Conference in the States, 4527 17th St. North, Arlington, Va. 22207-2399.

July 15 - 17, 1994 - National Council of Negro Women Black Family Reunion Celebration, Philadelphia, Pa. For further details call (215) 686-1558.

July 18 - 22, 1994 - The Still Family Society (relatives of William Still, author of The Underground Railroad) is planning a tour of the Underground Railroad in Canada. Buses will leave East Orange and Moorestown, (Continued - Next Page).

Bulletin Board Continued
from Page Three

New Jersey. Call
William H. Still (718)
479-2339 or
Lloyd E. Washington
(201) 763-4949
for more information.

July 27 - August 1, 1994 -

The Schomburg Corp.
"Presents African
American Heritage Tour
1994 - The Underground
Railroad from NYC to
Canada, Bondage to
Freedom." For informa-
tion call Agnes Louard
(212) 749-2092 or
Maria E. McFarlane
(212) 310-9033 (days).

Sussex County, N. J.
Records

Sussex County, New Jersey, is located in the northwestern section of the State. Its African-American population has never exceeded five per-cent of the total inhabitants. However, numerous records, including census, manumission, tax, slave, deed and runaway slave notices attest to the presence of African-Americans from the earliest history of the County.

Following is a list of "Colored Marriages" recorded in Book I, Sussex Co., N. J. Marriage (1795-1853):

13 June 1822-Armstrong, Dina
(Newton) to Ephraim Moore.
28 Sept. 1816-Beach, Betsey

(Newton) to Thomas Buskirk.
1 Jan. 1816-Bird, Mary to Cato.
28 Sept. 1816-Buskirk, Thomas
to Betsey Beach.
1 Jan. 1816-Cato to Mary Bird.
Nov. 1818-Clark, Stephen to
Susan Kelan.
23 Dec. 1821-(Coursan), Mary
(Hardwick to Michael (Cous)).
23 Dec. 1821- (Cous), Michael
to Mary (Coursen).
18 Jan. 1818-Burtis, Cuff to
Ann.
3 Oct. 1821-Cullard, Elizabeth
to Richard Lyrsen.
30 June 1821-Frelan, Thomas to
Lavina Montgomery.
6 Dec. 1823- Grove, Lydia to
John Tumbler.
18 May 1818-Harris, James to
Rachel.
28 Sept. 1822-Johnson, Chloe to
Samuel Peters.
18 Dec. 1833-Johnson, John
(Hardyston) to Mary Tezbout.
15 Oct. 1825-Johnson, Susanna
(Newton) to Samuel Thomas.
Nov. 1818-Welan, Susan to
Stephen Clark.
13 Aug. 1836-Latesha, Tisha A.
(Newton) to John Smith.
3 Oct. 1821-Lyrsen, Richard to
Elizabeth Cullard.
30 June 1821-Montgomery, Lavina
(Newton) to Thomas Frelan.
13 June 1822-Moore, Ephraim to
Dina Armstrong.
25 Dec. 1813-Negro, Thomas to
Phebe.
3 Apr. 1819-Peters, Elizabeth
to William Sands.
24 Dec. 1822-Peters, Nancy to
Cuff Rosencrants.
28 Sept. 1822-Peters, Samuel to
Chloe Johnson.
24 Dec. 1822-Rosencrants, Cuff
to Nancy Peters.
3 Apr. 1819-Sands, William to
Elizabeth Peters.
(Continued - Page Seven)

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AAHGS ANNOUNCEMENTS

sympathy 

SYMPATHY IS EXPRESSED TO THE
FAMILY OF LLOYD E. WASHINGTON
ON THE RECENT DEATH OF
HIS BROTHER FOLLOWING A LONG
ILLNESS.

CONGRATULATIONS to Anna Banks, cousin of NJ Chapter member, M. Leon Banks. Ms. Banks, of Newark, financial planner and WNJR Radio's talk show, "Strictly Business," was recently elected corporate secretary of the National Association of Tax Practitioners (NATP)....She is the NATP's first national officer of African-American heritage and only the second Black member of the 11-member NATP national board of directors. (From The Amsterdam News, 15 Jan. 1994).

MAE EDWARDS was very impressed with the African-American History Program held in the Heath Center of Tatum Park this past February featuring William Loren Katz on the topic, "Black Indians." She reported that he showed a series of slides about Black Indians and Black pioneers.

Mr. Katz said that "almost all African-Americans born in the United States have a Native American branch in this country...."

He mentioned the role of Bill Pickett, a black Cherokee

from Oklahoma and James P. Beckwourth, a Black trapper and a chieftain of both the Crow and Blackfoot nations. (Excerpts from Middletown (N.J.) Independent, (9 Feb. 1994, p. 22).

Books by Mr. Katz include: Black Indians, Breaking the Chains, The Lincoln Brigade, and Proudly Red and Black. Call 1-800-323-7445 for price list and placing orders.

See also article authored by Mr. Katz in the February 1994 issue of Essence Magazine, "Pioneer Sisters," pp 110-111.

RICHARD B. DICKENSON was recently appointed by the New York State Comptroller to the Cemetery Board Citizens Advisory Council for a term through November 30, 1995. The appointment letter of March 7, 1994, from H. Carl McCall, states:

"As you may know, the Council is charged by law with the duty to study and investigate incidents of cemetery abandonment, vandalism and desecration. It is also charged with the responsibility to monitor the administration of the State's Cemetery Vandalism Restoration and Administration Fund...."

We are proud that Dick Dickenson continues to be recognized for his contribution to research and preservation.

(Continued - Page Seven)

Wright - Armstead Associates
Book Shipped Everywhere
Madrue Chavers - Wright
2410 Barker Avenue - Suite 14-G
Bronx, New York 10467 - 7634 U.S.A.

(718) 654 - 9445

QUERY LETTER

RE: JOHN CHAVIS
1763-1838

I am seeking information about the private life of Rev. John Chavis, the free Black Presbyterian minister, missionary, and educator, born in Mecklenburg, Virginia, 1763; educated at Princeton University under Rev. Witherspoon from 1792-1794; subsequently studied at Liberty Hall Academy, a Presbyterian institution renamed Washington and Lee University; licensed by the Lexington Presbytery in 1801; He had the distinction of being the first Black to prove the value of higher education for Black Americans, the first ordained by the Presbyterian Church, and the first to be sent by the General Assembly as a Missionary to slaves and their plantation owners in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina from 1801-1807 which marked the beginning of organized Presbyterian missionary work for people of color. In 1808, at age 45, Rev. Chavis eventually settled in Raleigh, North Carolina where he organized, financed, publicized, and conducted a Classical School, becoming reknown as a remarkable educator, teaching boys and girls of both races through his unique experiment of integrated education, eventually guiding political careers of many, most of whom became powerful senators, governors, lawyers, preachers, physicians, and teachers, in the slave-holding south.

I have ample documentation of the above facts about his public life from primary sources, but need information about his wife, children, and extended family, the adult, private social world within which he moved. Though I am not presently funded for this information, I need to reach his descendants and/or those who have heard about the intimate details of his private challenges from reliable sources. While working on THE GUARANTEE, a self-published biography of my father, P.W. Chavers, I was told that Rev. Chavis was probably one of my ancestors. Years ago, many historians, especially in the Raleigh, North Carolina area, felt a biography about Rev. Chavis is long overdue, and would be an invaluable contribution to the history of integrated education and the Presbyterian Church movement emerging out of the black experience in America.

At present, I have enough data to publish an anthology of writings by and about Rev. Chavis, but prefer to expand my manuscript into a biography. If you know of verifiable personal data kindly contact me: Madrue Chavers-Wright, 2410 Barker Ave. #14-G, Bronx, NY 10467-7634

Yours truly,

Madrue Chavers-Wright
Author / Publisher

Sussex County, N. J. Records
(Continued from Page Four)

- 13 Dec. 1816-Sharp, Peter to Mary.
- 13 Aug. 1836-Smith, John (Newton) to Tisha A. Latesha.
- 18 May 1822-Smith, Simon to Phebe.
- 18 Dec. 1833-Tezbout, Mary (Hardyston) to John Johnson.
- 15 Oct. 1825-Thomas, Samuel to Susanna Johnson.
- 6 Dec. 1823-Rumbler, John to Lydia Grove.

New Jersey Chapter Announcements -(Continued from Page Five)

LUCIUS A. BOWSER was one of the featured speakers at the Black History Month Program sponsored by the Newark District, Drug Enforcement Administration, on February 25, 1994. He spoke about his personal accomplishments and family history research. He also related experiences of racial injustice during two years of service in the Navy during World War II.

In the course of his remarks about his family history, he mentioned that Black History Week was started in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, who was a third cousin of his grandmother, Annie Taylor Woodson Bowser. This practice of highlighting contributions by Blacks was lobbied vigorously by J. Rupert Picott, Executive Director of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History and a second cousin of Lucius' father. He further mentioned Florence Brickhouse Bowser, his great-great grandmother, who became the first Black school principal in Virginia and for whom a school is now named in Suffolk, Virginia. At a reunion held in Suffolk in 1981, Bowser family members participated in the dedication ceremony of a portrait of Florence Brickhouse Bowser in the school lobby. The school, which is located on Nansemond Boulevard, began as a one-room building for Black children, and has grown to a twenty-five room, two-story building with an enrollment of over 350 pupils.

NJ-AAHGS DIRECTORY (All 201 Area Code, except where noted)	
Lloyd E. Washington, Pres.	763-4949
Glenn D. Cunningham, V. Pres.	433-3487
Janice Jenkins, Secy.	451-4940
Odell Washington, Treas. & Finance Chr.	763-4949
Carolyn Whitley, Program Chr.	643-3242
Lucius A. Bowser, Membership Chr.	763-5868
Amanda Edwards, Queries Coordinator	(908) 671-1216
Lisa Crawley, Archivist	(908) 352-8015
Elizabeth Peale Johnson, Newsletter Editor	875-4802
Please send newsletter items to Editor named above, 124 Mt. Salem Road, Wantage, N. J. 07461-3725. Newsletters published monthly except July and August.	