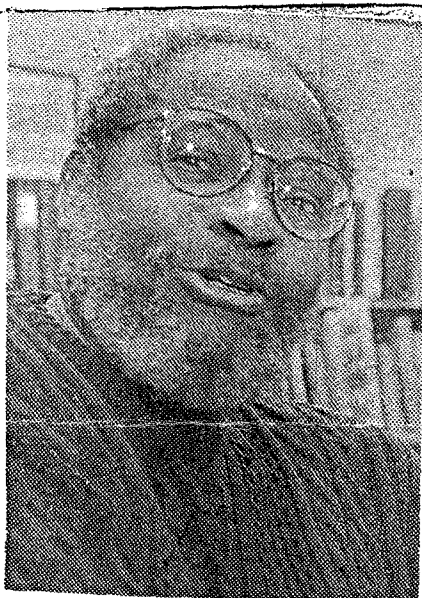


NJ AAHGS Newsletter

New Jersey Chapter: Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society

Adding Afro-American Chapters To New Jersey History Books



Giles Wright of the State Historical Comm.

The African American history curriculum guide recently introduced for New Jersey high schools includes lessons from the beginning of civilization in Africa through modern America.

The multi-ethnic History Project was coordinated by Giles R. Wright, who joined the commission in 1979.

If is not what you call
us, but what we answer
to that matters.

Djuka

Wright has a master's degree in African studies from Howard University and did doctoral work in comparative labor history at Rutgers University.

The guide is divided into 15 lesson areas. Each lesson includes study guides, reference materials and suggested exercises for students.

The teaching of black history is now mandated by state law, and had been under development for eight years. Two African-American teacher/historians actually wrote the plan. They are Dr. Lenworth Gunther, professor of history at Essex County Community College, and Dr. Larry A. Greene, associate professor of history at Seton Hall University.

According to Wright, "The curriculum is a unique resource that combines American history and black American history with the history of blacks in New

Jersey."

It is hoped that the curriculum will allow black students to see the full range of black participation in shaping the nation's history, and it should give all students "a sensitivity to the differences of people in this country," said Wright.

(Extracted from NY Times, March 2, 1997)

The Presidents Message

At the March meeting we were fortunate to have Mr. James Todd, a Red Bank resident and retired U.S. Foreign Service Officer, share his experiences with us. His various positions included Vice-Counsel and Counsel to Pakistan, Egypt, West Germany, and several African nations.

Hopefully, Florence Amos will present a slide-show of her trip to Haiti. If you recall, Mrs. Amos led a group of New

Jersey students on a humanitarian visit to Haiti last summer.

NJ AAHGS members will present a basic genealogy workshop at the East Orange Public Library, at South Arlington Avenue and Freeway Drive East on **May 17th**, the 3rd Saturday. Lloyd Washington, who is spearheading this program is requesting that NJ AAHGS members support this workshop with their attendance, and to help publicize the event by posting leaflets in churches, libraries and schools. Among the presenters are Betty Johnson, Glenn Cunningham and myself. Volunteers are sought to help set up coffee, etc. Also, members are encouraged to set up family history display boards, photographs, or other interesting family memorabilia.

Our chapter is dedicated to assisting you in all aspects of your research. Bring us your problems. The society is your medium to success. Support is important when there are community programs and our members are speakers or participants in such endeavors.

Again, I would like to remind you to offer your services to our Society as we

look for candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer for the upcoming election for 1997-99. Please consider this important challenge, and send me your name and the position you wish to fill.

Lucius Bowser

Some handy Genealogical terms to know

(From the Concise Genealogical Dictionary)

abjurer: one who renounces an oath, as an alien seeking naturalization who was required to renounce allegiance to his former country.

Abode: a place of habitual dwelling or residence.

Abortivus: born pre-maturely.

Abuttal: a boundary where one's land joins or meets another's land.

Bagman: a traveling salesman; one who shows samples and solicits orders for a manufacturer.

Bane: that which causes ruin or woe; a curse.

Blemmere: (pre-nineteenth century) a plumber.

Blinky milk: sour milk.

Bloody flux: dysentery

Bloman: a Negro or

blackamoor (an African Negro).

Brevet: an honorary military rank.

De novo: completely new from the start.

With a big splash a new ship honors Arctic explorer

(from National geographic, April 1997)

A sideways launch, traditional at the Moss Point, Mississippi, shipyard where she was built, sends the U.S. Navy's newest oceanographic survey ship, the Henson, into service. The vessel, fourth in a series of ships to gather data in both coastal and deep waters, is named for Matthew A. Henson, a pioneering black Arctic explorer. Henson accompanied Robert E. Peary on all the adventurous naval officer's voyages of discovery, including the 1909 thrust to the North Pole. Henson, a superb navigator, adept dog-sled driver, and master of survival in the far north, was often overlooked by historians.

Ten years ago, Harvard professor, S. Allen Counter

located Henson's Greenland descendants and brought them to the U.S. to meet other family members.. Through Dr. Counter's efforts, Henson's body was moved from a New York grave to Arlington National Cemetery.

(Thank you Lloyd Washington)

Still Family to lead trip to Canada Underground RR

William H. Still, descendant of William Still, author of *The Underground Railroad*, is presenting a tour of the underground railroad north of the border. The trip will take place between July 17 and July 21, 1997. A bus will depart from The Buck's Residence, 420 Park Boulevard, Moorestown, N.J. at 8:30 A.M. on July 17th. If anyone is interested in taking this trip, please contact Marion Still: 609-235-1432; Elizabeth Still Johnston: 609-235-4488; or William Still: 718-479-2339.

We ain't what we want to be;
we ain't what we gonna be;
but thank God we ain't what we was.
African-American folk saying

Ancient song links woman to African Homeland

(source Daily Challenge, Jersey City edition)

For most of her life, Mary Moran wasn't aware that a song sung for generations by women in her family came from their African homeland.

"I didn't know it was a funeral hymn", said Ms. Moran, 75. "I used to dance to it."

The song is in Mende, a language spoke in Sierra Leone, on the west coast of Africa. Anthropologists believe it may have come to America more than 200 years ago when Ms. Moran's ancestors were brought from Africa to work in the rice plantations of McIntosh County, in southeast Georgia.

Ms. Moran and many of her family members still live on Harris Neck, although they gave up family homesteads when the federal government created the Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge.

In 1931, her mother, Alelia Dawley, sang the song for linguist Lorenzo Turner. Believing the song originated

in Africa, Turner played a recording of it to people from Africa who were living in the United States.

An African student recognized the language as Mende, and concluded it was a funeral hymn. American anthropologist Joseph Opala took a recording of it to Sierra Leone, in 1989, where he and musicologist Synthis Schmidt played it in the small Mende village of Senehun Ngola.

When Opala and Schmidt returned to the U.S., they met Moran, and through her she first learned its meaning.

Their interest in , and knowledge of the song, led the Sierra Leone government to invite Ms. Moran and her family to visit the African country. She and twelve members of her family went to Sierra Leone recently.

Membership dues sustain our organization. Please pay your 1997 dues .

(For convenience, an application is provided in this newsletter. Please mail to address on application blank.



A Little Girl's Giant Footsteps

Symbol of 1960s
integration
reunites with
her protectors

The Story of Ruby Bridges



A LESSON IN HUMAN RIGHTS: Ruby bridges-Hall, now 42, is flanked by two of the four Deputy U.S.Marshals (bottom left) who escorted her when she helped integrate the New Orleans public schools in 1960. Jesse Grider, left, and Charles D.Burks, both now retired, were reunited with Ruby for the first time in 37 years at a black history program organized by the United States Marshals Service in Arlington, Virginia in February.

The 6 year old girl's determination was captured in a Norman Rockwell painting, top, titled "The Problem We All Live With."

"It brought back a lot of memories seeing her," said Burks, now 75, who flew from Indiana to meet Bridges-Hall. "She was such a brave little girl, and she marched along like a little soldier. I don't think any of us realized then how momentous those days were."

It was a long and lonely struggle, Bridges-Hall told an audience of 250 U.S.Marshal Service employees. "I started to cry," she said, recalling the first sight of her classroom, emptied of all other children." The classroom was virtually a prison for little Ruby for almost a year.

A A H G S PERSONALITY PROFILE

- LLOYD WASHINGTON -

This month's personality profile features our former president and founding member, Lloyd Washington - a member of our Society for seven years. Lloyd is married to the lovely Odell, and they live in Maplewood, in Essex County. Lloyd's respect and appreciation for African-American history and genealogy is well known throughout genealogical circles in New Jersey.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Lloyd is a retired member of the New York Transit Authority. But he's as busy as ever. One of the most active AAHGS members, he is a frequent lecturer on family history subjects. Lloyd is particularly interested in "Blacks in the Military." His lecture on this subject is entitled "Unknown Stories."

A 'steak and potato' man, our former president is formatting genealogical information into his computer, and preparing family history packets for his children. Lloyd says his most exciting genealogical find is the link to

an ancestor in Ireland (circa 1820's).

In the future, we may all benefit from Lloyd's long term goal: to write about "little known or unknown facts about Blacks in the Civil War.

As if the above activities are not enough, Lloyd also finds the time for woodworking, clock-making, astronomy, rifle and pistol target shooting and photography.

Needless to say, we are very proud of this dedicated NJ AAHGS member.

VISITING A FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

An excellent location to do genealogical/family history research - perhaps the best place for such research - are the many 'Family History Centers' throughout the State. The centers are operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), and the price is great - its almost free.

Here are some tips for your visit if you get a chance to go:

Before you go to the Center

Get a looseleaf notebook, pencil, eraser and folder or briefcase specifically for your research materials.

Find family history materials: family bibles; old suitcases, books, letters, newspapers, etc.; interview relatives.

Gather all your documents and materials and group them by individuals and families.

Decide specifically what you want to find at the Center. Not "my ancestors," but rather "great grandfather's birth date."

Write down what you know about your ancestors and note what facts you need to find.

General information about the Center

Respect the facility. It is a church building, and is completely paid for by the members of the Church.

Smoking is not allowed in any area of the building.

Remember that staff members are volunteers - not paid.

What the staff will do

Introduce you to resources and assist with pedigree chart.

Demonstrate the use of microfiche and microfilm readers; film readers; printers.

Order film or fiche for you.

What staff will not do

Violate copyright laws.

Bend or break rules for you.

Extend credit. Charges are nominal, but must be paid by cash or check.

Your research. After all, it's your family, not theirs.

The Center's Resources

Research outlines.

Foreign language word lists.

Selected reference books.

International Genealogical Index (IGI).

The Family History Library Catalogue.

The Accelerated Indexing System (AIS).

Periodical Source Index

200 genealogical references on microfiche.

**Family History
Center
- addresses -**

Cherry Hill: 260 Evesham Ave
East Brunswick: 303
Dunham's, Corner Road.
Emerson: 1840 Soldier Hill
Road

Mahwah: 30 Youngs Road
Morristown: 283 James Street
North Caldwell: 204 Mountain
Avenue
Short Hills: 140 White Oak
Ridge Rd.

**Telephone
Books**

Contemporary telephone books can be useful when searching for missing or new relatives. Of course, you'll have much better luck if your name is not among the most common. Many large public libraries have good collections of telephone books. The New York Public Library research center has nearly every telephone book in the world. Many foreign telephone books have English editions. The library attempts each year to obtain current telephone books from all over the world. They also save their old telephone books. Let your fingers do the walking.

-----Words of Wisdom-----

Power conceded nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.

Frederick Douglas

**Mooreland-
Springarn
Research Center**

--The Oral History Dept--

The above center is located at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The Oral History Department was established when the Ralph J. Bunche Collection (formerly the Civil Rights Documentation Project) was deposited at Howard in 1973. The 600 tapes and transcripts document the multi-faceted Black awareness activities of the 1960's. In 1980 the appointment of a professional librarian to head the department enabled additional programs to be launched.

The memoirs of Howard University staff, faculty and alumni provide documentation concerning the history and development of the University. A program to record recollections of World War II veterans of the 366th Infantry Regiment and the Tuskegee Airmen begins an attempt to document black military history. A donors program has been initiated wherein organizations and individuals that deposit their papers at the Center, are encouraged to add a recorded oral history to the collection.

APPLICATION National AAHGS SOCIETY APPLICATION: AAHGS-N.J. CHAPTER

Name: _____ Name: _____

Full name of Spouse: _____ Full name of Spouse: _____

Mailing address: _____ Mailing Address: _____
 (St., Ave, La, Ct, Apt #, PO Box #) (St., Ave., La., Ct., Apt #, PO Box #)

City: _____ St _____ Zip _____ City: _____ St _____ Zip _____

Tel. No. (_____) _____ Tel. No.: (_____) _____

Date of Birth Month _____ Day _____

FEES: Youth	Indiv.	Family	Company	FEES: Indiv.	Family	Company	Patron
(circle \$25	\$35	\$40	\$45	Circle \$12	\$20	\$35	\$250
one)				one)			

Signature: _____ Date _____ Signature: _____ Date _____

New Application: _____ Renewal _____ New Application: _____ Renewal: _____

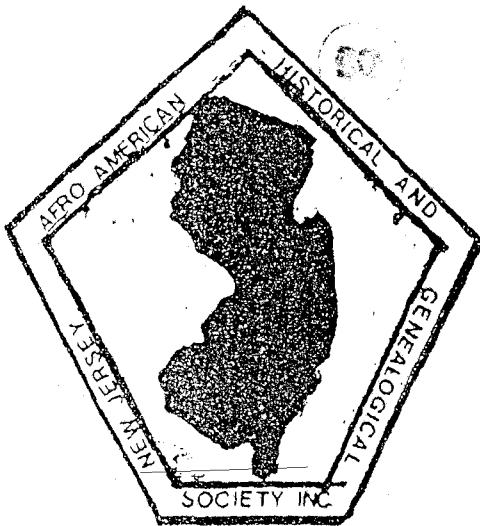
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PERIOD

Membership renewal time for the year 1997 has arrived and you are asked to complete the above applications and submit separate checks, payable to AAHGS for the national society and AAHGS-NJ for our New Jersey Chapter dues. Our Chapter dues remain the same as before which provides you with a monthly newsletter, important meetings, often with outside speakers and a great comraderie.

Unfortunately, our national society's Board of Directors and President aware of a shortfall in income for that group, voted a \$10 increase in national dues as shown above on the left. Your president and officers are working for a more favorable arrangement with national to keep dues down to permit greater participation by current members and to reach out for future new members. We ask that you renew promptly to show our solidarity and support in this year's membership drive.

Send both check and applications to AAHGS-NJ, 1841 Kennedy Blvd, 2nd floor, Jersey City, NJ 07305.

LOOK BACK TO THE PAST
FOR YOUR ROOTS
LET US HELP!



New Jersey Chapter
Afro American Historical
and Genealogical Society, Inc.
1841 Kennedy Boulevard, 2nd Floor
Jersey City, New Jersey 07305