

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

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3, Number 2

February 1991

NOTE: For the first time since the founding meeting in October 1989, NJ-AAHGS had to call the Weather Alert Committee into action to cancel the January 12th meeting due to snow conditions; however, it was good to talk with many of our members, especially those who are unable to attend meetings. The videotape of the April 1990 Installation of Officers will be rescheduled at a future date.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AAHGS

will meet

Saturday, February 9, 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

*BY-LAWS REVIEW -Arnold E. Brown, Chr.,
(Bring your copy of By-Laws - Extras
will be available if you do not have
copy)

*OFFICIAL START OF MEMBERSHIP DRIVE-
Lucius A. Bowser, Chr.

*BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM UPDATE-
Lloyd E. Washington, Chr.

PROGRAM

JANICE JENKINS will portray and discuss the life of Ida B. Wells who lived in the South in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. She led a crusade against lynching through her (continued - next column)

Program-Continued

newspaper Free Speech and devoted her life to fighting violence against Blacks.

Miss Jenkins majored in Dramatic Arts and earned a B.A. degree from Emerson College in Boston. She is active with a number of theatrical groups, including the Hadley Players and the American Community Theatre. She also serves as Secretary of NJ-AAHGS.

Please spread the word - everyone welcome to attend our meeting and program. Everyone bring Brown Bag Lunch - Beverage will be provided.

NEWPORT CENTRE MALL

We regret having to cancel plans for an African-American History display at the Newport Centre Mall, Saturday and Sunday, February 2 and 3. This project will be rescheduled at a later date to give us more time to obtain a banner and to meet other requirements. Thank you to members who responded to the call for volunteers to provide coverage at the display booth. Please stand by for our future Mall dates to be announced.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:(Please add to membership list) -

Dr. Greta Shepherd
25 Cleveland Terrace
East Orange, N.J. 07017

CONDOLENCES to GLENN D. CUNNINGHAM and his family in the recent passing of their brother. Glenn is NJ-AAHGS Research Projects Chairman.

MEMBERSHIP LIST - PLEASE CORRECT

The correct address for Member
Lenora W. McKay is:
18 Dale Place
Neptune, N.J. 07753
(201) 908-775-2797

NOTE YOUR CALENDARS:-

Saturday, February 2, 1991 -
1 p.m. - Black History Week Pro-
gram at Manalapan Library (Mon-
mouth County). Call Program Chr.
Lloyd E. Washington for direc-
tions - (201) 763-4949. Bring
Family History Posters, also
sandwich - beverage will be pro-
vided.

Saturday, February 16, 1991 -
10:00 a.m. Lucius A. Bowser,
Lloyd E. Washington and
Glenn D. Cunningham will speak
at the Genealogy Club meeting
of the New Jersey Historical
Society, 230 Broadway, Newark.
See details - Page 5 of this
Newsletter. Please attend.
Bring family and friends.

Please note when you attend that--
NJ-AAHGS participated in preparing
a display of photos and memorabilia
of Anna Monroe, a leader in church
work, civic and community affairs
in the 1940's and 1950's. Visit
the NJHS Library and see this dis-
play as well as the genealogical
resources available here.
Lloyd E. Washington contributed
Civil War artifacts for a display
relating to his presentation on
New Jerseyans who served in the
Colored Troops of the Civil War.
Be sure to stop to see this exhibit
also.

Call the New Jersey Historical Society
for directions (201) 483-3939. Park-
ing and entrance in the rear of build-
ing, 230 Broadway, Newark, N.J.

AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

EVERYONE INVITED

Sunday, February 3, 1991 - 2 p.m., at
1841 Kennedy Boulevard,
Jersey City, N.J.
(2nd fl., Greenville Library)

SPEAKER; DR. ROSALIND JEFFRIES,
ART HISTORIAN -

"Why the Fuss Over Afro-
American Quilts?"

**See the Jazz Beat in
Afro-American Quilts**

Note:-The Quilt Exhibit will be on view
through March 16, 1991.

LECTURE SERIES - LINKAGES, AFRICA AND
AFRICAN AMERICA

Presented by the African Afro-American
Studies Program, Jersey City State
College

and

The Afro American Historical and
Cultural Society Museum -

Lecture V - Dr. Deborah Sanders, Dir
of African/Afro-American Studies,
Jersey City State College, "Returning
Home: Profiles of African Americans
Living in Africa", Thurs., Feb.-7,
1991, 7:00 p.m., Gothic Lounge,
Hepburn 202, Jersey City State College.

Lecture VI - Prof. Giles Wright, Dir.
Afro American History Program, New
Jersey Historical Commission,
"African Americans in New Jersey
History," Thurs., Feb. 14, 1991, 7:00 pm,
Afro American Historical and Cultural
Society Museum, 1841 Kennedy Blvd.,
Jersey City, N.J.

Lecture VII - Dr. John Henrik Clark, Prof.
Emeritus, Hunter College, "Linkages:
Africa and African America", Thurs.,
Feb. 21, 1991 - 7:00 p.m,
Gothic Lounge, Hepburn 202, Jersey City
State College.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY CELEBRATION -
HEATH CENTER, MIDDLETOWN NEW JERSEY

On Sunday, January 27, 1991, Lloyd and Odell Washington, Lucius Bowser, Janice Jenkins and Betty Johnson travelled to Middletown, N.J. to join in an African-American History Celebration with our Monmouth County members: Anna Durham, Amanda Edwards, Bertha C. Heath, Lenora McKay and Ellen Morris (Janie Stout was unable to attend).

The program was held in the elegant Heath Center administered by the Monmouth County Park System. In a tribute to Bertha Heath and her family, the printed program states:

"It is a special pleasure to house this exhibit in the Heath wing because it represents, so well, the achievements of a local African-American family. Miss Bertha Heath was the guiding force behind her family's generous contribution to the Monmouth County Park System that made it possible to build the Clinton P. and Mary E. Heath Center and to establish our annual African-American History Celebration. The Heath Center is the Heath family's way of reminding area residents of the culture that sprang from the land. This culture was not only the contribution of African-American farmers and their families to the area, but of all the people of Monmouth County who shared their faith in work, family and church. (Continued next column).

By reminding people of that faith, the Heath Center will be both a repository of memories and a stimulus to reviving a way of life that progress often makes us forget."

A large plaque honoring the Heath family greeted us as we entered the lobby of the modern building which features an auditorium, a reading room and meeting rooms.

The African-American exhibit included documentation and photographs of Miss Bertha Heath and her parents and brothers and sisters (she was one of thirteen children). There was a photo of her in a high school reunion and another photo of her in her nurse's uniform (she taught nursing for many years before her retirement).

In addition, there were displayed photos and documentation concerning other families and of prominent African-Americans of the past and present. One section of the exhibit featured African-inspired garments and accessories as well artwork and crafts.

NJ-AAHGS members formed a panel and related our experiences in researching our family history. (Continued - Page 4.)

NJ-AAHGS DIRECTORY		(All 201 Area Code)	
Elizabeth Peale Johnson, Pres.	875-4802	Glenn D. Cunningham, Research	
Theodore Brunson, V. Pres.	547-5262	Projects Chr. & Prog. Asst.	433-3487
Janice Jenkins, Secy.	451-4940	Lloyd E. Washington, Program	
Odell Washington, Treas. &		Chr. & Liaison, NY & NJ	
Finance Chr.	763-4949	Chapters, AAHGS	763-4949
Theresa L. Thomas, Coord.		Lucius A. Bowser, Membership &	
Assist. to New Genealogists	460-4355	Publicity Chr.	763-5892
		Arnold E. Brown, By-Laws Chr.	567-4628

PLEASE FORWARD ALL ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH TO:
Elizabeth Peale Johnson, 124 Mount Salem Road, Wantage, New Jersey 07461.
(201) 875-4802.

HEATH CENTER (Continued from Page 3)

Lenora McKay had a copy of her book, Mama and Papa, the Blacks of Monmouth County, for display. Ellen Morris unveiled her new publication, Monmouth County, New Jersey, Families of Color in 1880, (for sale by NJ-AAHGS, \$20 per copy). Anna Durham had on hand a number of useful library books (we also met her charming Mother). Lucius Bowser described what Census records contain and how they can help researchers. Janice Jenkins spoke about her experience as a new researcher, and Amanda Edwards described her research from the family history posters on display. Lloyd Washington spoke of New Jersey Blacks who served with the Colored Troops in the Civil War. Bertha Heath related a childhood experience which indicated that the importance of her family heritage was nurtured by her parents as a part of family life. We were also happy to meet her nephew.

We were all grateful to have this opportunity to see the Heath Center and participate in the African-American History celebration which began on January 26th and ends February 3, 1991. It was a splendid experience!

(THOMAS V.) JACKSON COUSINS ASSOCIATION

Congratulations are in order to Richard Dickenson, who was recently elected President of his family association, (Thomas V.) Jackson Cousins Association. We will hear more about plans for an April presentation, which will take place, at our February meeting. In the meantime, please view the Jacksons' heritage chart at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum when we meet in February or March to acquaint ourselves with the Jackson family ancestry.

A Research Guide and Bibliography entitled Afro-American Family History at the Newberry Library (\$2.00) is available from The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton, Chicago, Ill. 60810.

QUERY

FATHER DIVINE: Need death date and place for grandmother, -
Virginia (HAWES) Dickenson, b. 1880, Little Rock, Ark., dau. of
Rev. William C. & Annie Hawes; m. 1898 (& div.?) Aaron Dickenson, of Oklahoma and Kansas; came to N.Y.C. c. 1920's and became "Angel" of Father Divine in 1930's. Possibly changed name to Johnson. Where are records of followers of Father Divine?

Richard Dickenson, 140 Tysen St., N.B. Staten Island, N.Y. 10301.

ADD FOLLOWING NAMES TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following names should have been included on the membership list which was mailed to you with the January 1991 newsletter:

R. Boulton Dickenson, 140 Tysen St.,
Staten Island, N.Y. 10301
(718) 720-8271
Courtney Matlock, 227 Edpas Road,
New Brunswick, N.J. 08901
(201) 828-7266

REMINDER!!!

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORM IN JAN. 1991 NEWSLETTER.

Our November 1990 Newsletter included "Egyptian Family Tree" in the list of posters contributed to the Family History Exhibit and on display at the October Annual Meeting Genealogy Workshop. This was in Arabic and the family tree of Mohammed, the founder of Islam.

BEGINNING GENEALOGISTS

Interviews of relatives, and especially the older members of our families, is one of the first steps in doing family research. Have you taken this first step???