
AAHGS

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

Volume 8, Number 2

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1995

African-American History Month Observance

NJ-AAHGS will hold its African-American History Month meeting and program Saturday, February 11, 1995, 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 Bag Lunch. Beverage will be provided.

PROGRAM:

William Still, Chairman of The Still Family Society, Inc. will give a history of the Still family in New Jersey.

Open meeting and program. Everyone invited - family and friends welcome.

NOTE: The Greenville Library closes from 1 to 2 p.m. for lunch hour. If the front door is locked when you arrive, please call the Museum at 547-5262 from the telephone in front of the building. Someone will come down and admit you.

COMING SOON!

The 1995 Annual Conference of the Afro-American Hist. & Gen. Society, Inc. will be held April 27-29, 1995. Sessions will be held on the Howard University campus, and housing

will be at the Howard Inn. Theme: - "Historians and Genealogists: Using Public Records, Writing Our History." Mark these dates on your Calendar. More details later.

ABOUT THE STILL FAMILY

In the years before the Civil War, thousands of slaves fled the South by way of the Underground Railroad, an escape route that crossed the State of New Jersey. One of the fugitives was a young woman, Charity Still, who found freedom and eventually settled in Burlington County.

Levin Still, the husband of Charity, who was under a different slave master than his wife, eventually obtained his freedom and joined his wife in New Jersey. There is much more to this story as you will hear on February 11th from William Still, one of their descendants.

The Still Family Society, Inc. preserves its heritage through an annual family reunion and the publication of The Still Family Newsletter.

Don't miss the fascinating account of the history of the Still Family on February 11th at our meeting!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Black History Month is a great time to reflect on the history of our people and to focus our attention on the history of our families. But it is also a time to tell ourselves that every month should be Black History Month for us.

Our speaker for the February 11, 1995, meeting will be Mr. William Still. His family is one of the oldest in New Jersey going back to Levin and Charity Still in the mid-1700's. The family also includes Dr. James Still, the "Herb Doctor" of the 1850's, and the author, William Still, who wrote The Underground Railroad in 1872.

This past summer the Still family celebrated its 125th Family Reunion in New Jersey. We will have the opportunity to hear some of the rich history of the Still Family. Invite your family and friends to this program. See you on February 11.

-Lloyd E. Washington,
President

REMINDER

Although this winter has been unusually mild thus far, with little snow and ice - nothing like 1994 - we repeat this weather alert:

In the event of severe weather, each member is asked to take

responsibility for calling your County representative by 9 a.m. the day of the scheduled meeting, for decisions concerning cancellation.

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>NAME AND TELEPHONE</u>
Hudson	Glenn Cunningham (201) 433-3487
Essex	Lloyd Washington (201) 763-4949
Bergen	Bernice Jackson (201) 837-0642
Middlesex	Lloyd Washington (201) 763-4949
Monmouth	Amanda Edwards (908) 671-1216
Union/Ocean	Lloyd Washington (201) 763-4949
Mercer	Lou Bowser (201) 763-5892
Passaic	Lillian Page (201) 916-0114

Lisa Crawley, NJ-AAHGS member attending Hampton University, calls our attention to the February 1995 issue of Essence. In an item entitled "Tracing Our Roots," a report is made of an individual named Donna Carter, who traced her family back to the early 1800's and self-published a family history presented to her family as a Christmas gift, all as a result of an inspiring trip to Senegal and Gambia (See pg 38).

Bulletin Board

NJ-AAHGS NEWSLETTER
February 1995
Page Three

The City Of Jersey City
announces its annual African American History Month program at City Hall with the theme: "From Underground Railroad to Pullman Porter: A History of African Americans on the Railroad," co-sponsored by the Jersey City Human Rights Commission, the Division of Equal Opportunity, the Div. of Cultural Affairs, and the Afro-American Historical Society Museum. A display will be mounted for the month of February depicting the role and activities of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car (Pullman) Porters, through the courtesy of the Museum.

February 3 - Raising of the African-American Flag.
Feb. 15 - City Council Chambers - Hudson County Restoration Choir will perform; Hudson County Public Safety Director, Glenn Cunningham, will talk about the Underground Railroad in Jersey City; and Theodore Brunson, Museum Director, will tell the story of the "Pullman Porters" and the role the railroad played in the growth of Jersey City.

FREE ADMISSION.

Saturday, February 11, 1995,
NJ-AAHGS will hold a Black History Month program at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, New Jersey. Speaker: William Still, a descendant of the oldest Black family in New Jersey. Program

open to the public. 12 Noon. Bag lunch. Beverage provided. For information call the Museum at (201) 547-5262.

Sunday, February 12 - "The Promised Land," an original 5-part mini-series narrated by Morgan Freeman, 9-11 PM, continued Mon-Wed 10 PM, The Discovery Channel. The migration of African-Americans to the North from 1940 to 1970 in search of the American Dream.

Saturday, February 18, 1995 -
Black History Month Family Festival, New Jersey Historical Society, 10 AM, Video Program and Lecture by Glenn D. Cunningham, "Hidden Footprints: The History of Jersey City through the African-American Experience." 230 Broadway, Newark, N.J. (201) 483-3939.

Saturdays and Sundays during February, 1 and 3 PM -
Planetarium Shows in honor of Black History Month, "Follow the Drinking Gourd," co-produced by the Planetarium and Raritan Valley Community College. The planetarium shows will illuminate how slave songs masked language directing slaves how to use the night sky and other mapping techniques to make their way North with help from the Underground Railroad. Admission \$1.00 per person. At N. J. State Museum, 205 W. State St., Trenton.
(Continued - Page Four)

BULLETIN BOARD (Continued)

Through April 17 - Exhibit
"Long is the Struggle: The Black Experience in Northern New Jersey," shows the growth and decline of slavery, craft items representing the work of free Blacks living in Newark and other cities after slavery was abolished, and the role African-Americans played in the development of New Jersey from the 17th through the mid-19th centuries. Hours are 2-4 p.m. Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Donations \$2. adults; \$1 children. 91 Crane Ave., Rutherford.

Through April 11 - Painter
Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series, at The Museum of Modern Art, New York City. 60 panels tell the story of the African American migration experience from the South to the North. For information call (212) 708-9400.

The City of Newark has made available a splendid 1995 Black History Month Calendar of Cultural Events sponsored by Essex County College. Newark Public Library, Rutgers-Newark, the N. J. Historical Society, the Newark Community School of the Arts, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Aljira-A Center for Contemporary Art, and the Newark Museum. Inquire regarding the availability of this calendar: Div. of Recreation/Cultural Affairs, City Hall Room B-23,

920 Broad St., Newark, N.J. 07104, (201) 733-6454.

August Wilson's Pulitzer-prize-winning play, The Piano Lesson will be broadcast on CBS during the month of February on the "Hallmark Hall of Fame." Watch for the television listing.

Actress Cicely Tyson is slated to star in an NBC broadcast on "Jefferson in Paris," dealing with Thomas Jefferson's Black family. Watch for television listing.

The Friends of the Newark (N.J.) Public Library are planning their Fourth Annual Book Sale on April 6, 7 and 8. Acceptable are materials in English and non-english, in good, sellable condition, including hard and soft cover books, paperbacks, records, videotapes, cassettes, C.D.s, and posters are welcome. Children's books are especially needed. Call (201) 733-7793 if you have items to donate, also, if you have time to give before, during or after the book sale.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian opened in Fall 1994 at the Alexander Hamilton U. S. Custom House in Lower Manhattan, One Bowling Green, New York City. Open 7 days a week. Free admission. For more information call (212) 668-6624. Call (800) 242-NMA for membership.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

THE H.A.D.L.E.Y. PLAYERS
(Harlem Artists Development League Especially For You)
at the
Community Service Council of Greater Harlem, Inc.

Gertrude Jeannette, Artistic Director

William K. Wolfe, Executive Director

presents

IN PURSUIT OF JUSTICE: A ONE-WOMAN PLAY ABOUT IDA B. WELLS



Wife, Mother, Journalist, Social Activist

A Woman of the 90's -- the 1890's

By WENDY JONE
Starring JANICE JENKINS
Directed by BRUCE EDWIN JENKINS

February 3, 1995 — February 26, 1995
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 P.M. — February 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25
Sundays at 2:30 P.M. — February 5, 12, 19, 26

207 West 133rd Street, New York, NY
Near Corner of Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard (7th Avenue)

Tickets: \$12, Seniors & Groups over 20-\$10, Children under 12-\$5
OPENING NIGHT, FEBRUARY 3, 1995: PERFORMANCE AND REFRESHMENTS - \$15
Call (212) 368-9314/926-0281

*Appearing courtesy of Actor's Equity

This program is partially funded by the New York State Council on the Arts

ANSWERS TO BLACK FIRSTS QUIZ
IN JANUARY 1995
NEWSLETTER

By Lucius A. Bowser

1. George Jackson
2. Thomas Alston
3. Lonnie R. Bristow, M.D.
4. Leslie Geymon
5. Sidney Williams
6. Jesse LeRoy Brown
7. Mabel G. Holmes
8. Shirley A. DeLibero
9. Mary Stamford
10. John Jenkins

Lucius A. Bowser has brought to our attention a copy of a supplement to the February/March 1995 publication of Legacy, which contains an interesting article by George Cantor, a columnist for the Detroit News, and the author of Historic Black Landmarks. Not only does Cantor bring us along with him as he travels to various African-American sites, he provides numerous photographs and ample historic background. The lead-in to Cantor's article states: "Once unknown and neglected, landmarks of African-American history are drawing visitors as never before - all armed with new specialized guidebooks."

For members of NJ-AAHGS who have Brooklyn, N.Y. roots, you may be interested in the following information which was mentioned in the January 8, 1995, Travel Section of the New York Times:

Second Sunday in June - Welcome Back to Brooklyn Festival - along Eastern Parkway from Grand Army Plaza to the Brooklyn Museum, attracts 300,000 people from all over the city and country.

Tours are provided by: Brooklyn Center for Urban Environment, Tennis House, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215 (718) 788-8500.

Louis Singer, 75 Henry St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201 (718) 875-9084.

The Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn, NY. 11201 (718) 624-0890.

Big Apple Greeters, 1 Center St., 20th fl., New York, N.Y. 10007, (212) 669-2896.

This is a repeat of an item by Lucius A. Bowser:

"WHO WILL CARRY ON?"

Have you stopped to think who in your family would carry on genealogical research should something happen to you? Is there another family member with the same enthusiasm, enjoyment and determination to keep researching? If the answer is "No one," you may wish to make plans to leave your genealogy materials and records with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society - New Jersey Chapter. You should give thought to this suggestion and plan accordingly.

QUERIES

Seeking information about ANTHONY HALSTON, b. 5/1/1861 in Georgia and d. 1/29/36 in Newark, N.J. He was married to MARY JANE KNIGHT in Alabama - occupation farmer, laborer. Some children's names are BENJAMIN, PETRONIA and ARTIS, - my father. His parents' names were PETER and MARIE HALSTON, born in either Georgia or Alabama. Last known address was Clio, Alabama.

(Submitted by Marie Newberry,
46 Irving St., Montclair, NJ)

Interested in any old clippings about my grandfather, JOSEPH P. BOSCH, b. 1893, d. June 17, 1950; lived in Jersey City and Bayonne, N.J. He played in the Industrial Baseball League during the 1920's and 1930's.

(Submitted by Joseph Hay,
112B Heather Way, Yorktown,
Va. 23693).

Looking for relatives of THOMAS HALE, Norfolk, Suffolk, Va. (b. ca 1843-45), m. MARY MARTHA BOWSER (b. 1844) of Nansemond, Va. HALE believed to be related to an UNDERTAKER HALE of Norfolk.

(Contact Lucius A. Bowser,
758 Stirling Dr.E., South
Orange, N. J. 07079-2425.
(201) 763-5892).

Looking for family ASH, heirs to JAMES BOWSER (1800) Revolutionary War Soldier from Nansemond, Va. Names known are NATHANIEL, AUDREY, JOHN and

others.

(Contact Lucius A. Bowser,
758 Stirling Dr., E., South
Orange, N. J. 07079-2425,
(201) 763-5892).

Seeking descendants of REV. NORMAN BASCOM STERRETT, D.D. b. 9/28/1841, to JESSE and RACHAEL ANN STERRETT in MD., d. 8/27/21 in Charleston, S. C. He was active in the A.M.E. Church in South Carolina in which he served a number of pastorates and presided over several districts. Kindly advise relationship.

(Contact Elizabeth P.
Johnson, 124 Mt. Salem Rd.,
Wantage, N. J. 07461-3725)

DIRECTORY OF NJ-AAHGS OFFICERS
AND CHAIRPERSONS:

Lloyd E. Washington, Pres.
(201) 763-4949.
Glenn D. Cunningham, V. Pres.
(201) 433-3487.
Janice Jenkins, Secy.
(201) 451-4940.
Odell Washington, Treas.
(201) 763-4949.
Carolyn Whitley, Program Chr.
(201) 643-3242.
Lucius A. Bowser, Membership
Chr., (201) 763-5868.
Amanda Edwards, Queries &
Archivist (908) 671-1216.
Anna Durham, Archivist
(908) 872-2858.
Sandra Bolden, Pub. Relations
(201) 792-3142.
Elizabeth Peale Johnson,
Newsletter Ed. (201) 875-4802.

NEXT NJ-AAHGS MEETING,
SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1995.