
AAHGS

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

Volume 8, Number 6

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1995

**LAST NJ-AAHGS MEETING
OF THE 1994-1995 PROGRAM
YEAR**

NJ-AAHGS will meet Saturday,
June 10, 1995, at 12 Noon at
the Afro-American Historical
Society Museum, 1841 Kennedy
Blvd., Jersey City, N. J. (2nd
fl.)

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

12 Noon - Bag Lunch. Beverage
will be provided.

Presentation:

Winifred Washington -
"How to Put Your Family
Information in Booklet
Form."

Member research updates and
plans for the summer.

Open meeting. Everyone
invited. Bring family and
friends.

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.

FAMILY REUNIONS - 1995

HOWARD-WALLER FAMILY REUNION -
July 28, 29, 30
Holiday Inn Airport,
Sandston, Va.
Reunion held every 2 years.
Submitted by M.L.Mickens Banks

MC INTOSH FAMILY REUNION

August 5 to August 7
Holiday Inn, Philadelphia
Station, Philadelphia, Pa.
Yearly family reunions.
Submitted by M.L.Wilson Banks

**FINNEY and AUSTIN FAMILY
REUNION -**

July 14 - 16
Sheraton Hotel at the
Airport,
Roanoke, Va.
Held every 2 years.
Submitted by Lillian Page.

FOWLKES FAMILY REUNION

July 14, 15, 16
Travelodge
Livingston, N. J.
Held every 2 years.
Submitted by Bernice Jackson

FURY/REID FAMILY REUNION

Held April 14, 15, 17
104 Relatives from NJ, NY,
Fl, Ga, Md, Tx, Wi and
St. Thomas, V.I.
Suncoast Resort Hotel,
St. Petersburg, Fl.
Held every 2 years.
Submitted by Bernice Jackson

**KYLES, BURRELL & MARY of
Ivy, Va.**

October 13, 14, 15
Sheraton Inn Park South
Richmond, Va.
Submitted by Marilyn Kyles

NEAL-O'NEAL-JOHNSON-KING

July 6-7-8-9
Washington, D. C. -
Ramada Inn/Camp Springs-
Camp Springs, Md.
Held yearly.
Submitted by Florence O'Neal
Amos.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to thank the New York Chapter of AAHGS and the African American Genealogy Group of Philadelphia for traveling to New Jersey for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council meeting on May 13, 1995. I would also like to thank our two guest speakers, Attorneys Neal Brunson and Cynthia Barker for their wonderful presentations on the legal aspects of getting our affairs in order. To the New Jersey members who helped in the preparation for the meeting and who came out to participate, Thank you.

Antonia Martin, President of the New York Chapter, and John Logan, President of the Philadelphia Group, reported on the activities of their groups, past and future. Networking is a very important part of genealogy.

Our guest speaker for the June meeting will be Winifred Washington who will display family booklets that she has put together and explain how she can put your family information in booklet form. Since this is our last meeting until September, we would also like to have you update your research with the group and tell us what your plans are for the summer.

Congratulations to Theodore Brunson who was awarded a Medal of Achievement by Robert C. Janiszewski, Hudson County Executive, at the annual luncheon of the Afro-American Historical Society

Museum on May 20, 1995. Mr Brunson was praised for his dedication to preserving African-American history.

See you June 10, 1995.

- LLOYD E. WASHINGTON
President

UP TO DATE WITH THE BOWSER
FAMILY

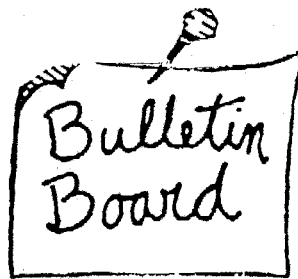
(By Lucius A. Bowser)

(April 5, 1995)

I was called by a Mrs. Morris from Green Valley, Arizona, who had read my name in our (NJ-AAHGS) newsletter and called to say she would like to exchange information on Bowsers from Virginia, although she was from North Carolina. So exchange of Newsletters may pay off.

Additionally while doing the talk in Atlantic City for the Business and Professional Women's Club, I was approached by a Mrs. Boone whose husband, Joseph Boone, has done a great amount of work on the Boone names in Virginia, especially Nansemond County. Both Lisa Crawley and I have Boones in our families from the area. I am sending her my Boone information as well as what I have from Lisa.

Did you notice the query from a Mr. Myers in the AAHGS newsletter looking for information on Skeetersville, Va.? Lisa is a descendant of the Skeeters that founded the
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NJ-AAHGS NEWSLETTER
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AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MUSEUM PROGRAMS

May 29, 1995 - 13th Annual
Luncheon and Fund Raiser -
held May 20, 1995, at
Hi-Hat Caterers, Bayonne,
N. J. featuring actress,
jazz singer and dancer
Tammy Townsend.

May 31, 1995 - The Life and
Times of Lewis H. Latimer.
Guest Speaker -
Dr. Winifred Latimer Norman,
Granddaughter of Lewis H.
Latimer.

June 7, 1995, - F.E.W. HARPER
LITERARY SOCIETY will
celebrate the Black Diaspora
with a discussion of Chinua
Achebe's A Man of the People,
in the African-American Room
of The Newark Public Library,
5 Washington St., Newark,
N. J. 6:30 p.m. (201)
733-7793.

June 11, 1995 - 3:00 p.m. and
7:00 p.m. St. James A.M.E.
Church, Newark, N. J.,
will present JOHN AMOS star
of Roots and Die Hard 2 in
"Halley's Comet, at the John
Harms Center for the Arts,
30 No. Van Brunt St.,
Englewood, N.J. 07102. For
reservations and tickets:
St. James A.M.E. Church,
(201) 622-1344. General
Seating \$30.00; VIP Seating
& Reception \$50.00. Proceeds
will benefit St. James
Preparatory School.

September 20-23, 1995, Seattle,
Wash., The Federation of
Genealogical Societies and
the Seattle Genealogical
Society will co-sponsor a
national conference. Contact
the FGS Business Office for
further details, P. O. Box
3385, Salt Lake City, Utah
84110.

November 17-18, 1995 - The New
England Historic Genealogical
Society and the New York
Genealogical & Biographical
Society will co-sponsor a
joint conference at the
Westchester Marriott Hotel,
Tarrytown, New York. For
further information call the
New England Society at
(617) 536-5740, Ext. 202, or
the New York Society (212)
755-8532.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Gene-Ann Polk Horne/Edwin
Horne, 374 Miller Ave.,
Englewood, N.J. 07631.

Barbara P. Riley-Scott, 114 E.
7th Ave., Roselle, NJ 07203.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
THE FALL!**

September 9, 1995 - Noon
NJ-AAHGS meetings resume -
12 Noon, at the Afro-American
Historical Society Museum,
1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey
City, N. J.

October 14, 1995 - NJ-AAHGS
Annual Meeting.

UP TO DATE WITH THE BOWSER
FAMILY

(Continued from Page Two)

(May 25, 1995)

Did you see American Visions, April/May 1995, pages 42 and 43, entitled "Sisterhood Televised, Yvette Lee Bowser and the Voices She Listens To"?

The subject of this article, Yvette Lee Bowser is the creator and executive producer of the television show, "Living Single." She was also a producer of "A Different World" (1987-1992), and did a stint as producer of a season of "Hanging with Mr. Cooper."

Yvette married Kyle Bowser, also a television producer. Kyle is the son of the late John Bowser, founder and producer of a Black theater company in Philadelphia.

Kyle is related to NJ-AAHGS member, Lucius A. Bowser, and his family through Kyle's uncle, Charles Bowser, a lawyer and mayoral candidate in Philadelphia. He is a great-great-great nephew of William Augusta Bowser, one of the original ten children of James Bernard Bowser, from which the family of Lucius A. Bowser descended (James Bernard Bowser, b. 1802 in Nansemond (Suffolk) Virginia).

Kyle's father and the actor, Bill Cosby, went to Temple University where they became good friends. Subsequently Bill Cosby established a scholarship in honor of John Bowser at

Wilberforce University.

Lucius A. Bowser was unable to attend the May 1995 meeting of NJ-AAHGS. He was in Philadelphia to attend the 41st annual Green-Douglas Scholarship luncheon and fashion show sponsored by the Philadelphia branch of the National Association of University Women, held at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel. His cousin, Deborah Clements Johnson was the chairperson of this event. Three years ago NAUW adopted the Germantown-Lanenaer Motivational High School and awarded twelve scholarships to the class of 1995. Recipients of the scholarships plan to attend LaSalle University, Howard University, Pennsylvania State University, Rider College, West Chester University, the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Delaware State University and Temple University. About 500 guests attend the annual scholarship luncheon.

TIPS FOR SUMMER 1995
FAMILY RESEARCH

1. Interview as many older relatives as possible.
2. Check at home for birth, marriage and death certificates.
3. Gather family photographs.
4. Visit repositories: libraries, archives, etc.
5. Travel to ancestral home where family originated.
6. Organize material that you gather and establish a filing system. KEEP COOL!

Review of Family Historian
program on Afro-American
Genealogy - by
Elizabeth Peale Johnson.

The April 1995 NJ-AAHGS Newsletter announced a Family Historian video on Afro-American Genealogy produced by Stephen Conte.

This is an excellent interview of NJ-AAHGS Chapter member, Glenn D. Cunningham, who describes the resources he used in researching Cunningham ancestry.

Inspired by reading Alex Haley's Roots, Glenn suggests interviewing our oldest relatives first. For example, he talked with an elder cousin and his father's oldest sister in gathering material upon which later findings were based.

Subsequently he delved into such records as U. S. Census records, Cunningham plantation records in the Perkins Library at Duke University, and a publication on Person County (N.C.) local history.

In seeking further information, Glenn travelled to Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. He compiled an enviable collection of family photographs, including photos of Waverly plantation, the Cunningham domicile.

This videotape is an excellent tool for beginners in African-American genealogy. It can also be insightful for more

advanced researchers.

The program concludes with suggestions of publications which Glenn used as references and background in his research.

Afro-American Genealogy, Videotape #21, can be ordered from Stephen Conte, Box 962, West Caldwell, N. J. 07007 (\$20.00 includes shipping and handling). Make check or money order payable to Stephen Conte.

The videotape on Afro-American Genealogy pays tribute to Jean Sampson Scott who guided the New Jersey Chapter when it initially organized in 1989.

NOTE: Family Historian, produced by Stephen Conte, will premiere September 5, 1995, at 9:30 p.m. state-wide in New Jersey via Cable Television Network (CTN). Consult your television guide for your local television station.

NJ-AAHGS CHAPTER NOTES

Amanda Edwards, our Historian and Archivist, is on the mend, but still has to take it easy. We were happy to hear this news.

Carolyn Whitley has had a series of deaths in her family, which made it impossible for her to attend Chapter meetings. We extend our sympathy in her losses and hope that she will be able to join us at our meetings in the near future.

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NJ-AAHGS NOTES Continued -

Last month President Lloyd E. Washington was a guest on a half-hour program on Black genealogy on Channel 20 in Plainfield, N.J. There is interest in regularly scheduling speakers on this topic.

Nettie Washington Johnson attended her 40th high school reunion in Chester, South Carolina, Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28, 1995. Although there are still many alumni who reside in the states of South Carolina and North Carolina, there was a good representation from the East Coast from the states of Florida to New Jersey.

The following is from the NJLA*
PRESERVATION SECTION
NEWSLETTER, WINTER/SPRING 1995:

Washington cultural institutions will undertake a nationwide effort to recruit more minorities into the conservation profession, presently dominated by white women, aged 35-50. The Library of Congress, the National Archives, the National Gallery of Art, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History have initiated a recruitment and training program in which potential conservators will be recruited in their third year of university and will receive scholarships to complete their undergraduate studies in D.C. area colleges and universities,

concentrating on courses that support careers in conservation. Students will be offered part-time employment during their third and fourth years, as well as full time summer employment following their junior and senior years, rotating through assignments at each of the sponsoring institutions. Following the summer of their senior year, students would begin the first of two paid internships in art and book conservation. Upon completion of the internships, students would be admitted, with full scholarships, to graduate-level programs in art or book conservation. After graduation, students would be helped to find positions in conservation specialties. For further information about this innovative program, contact the National Preservation Program Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. 20540.

*NJLA (New Jersey Library Association)

NOTICE

Approval of the issuance of an African Burial Ground Commemorative Stamp was rejected by the Liaison Office for the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) and decided by CSAC's review board on January 15, 1995. This rejection was made in spite of the fact that over 40,000 signatures were obtained from 36 states across the U. S. and 10 countries of the world. Thus, Richard Brown,
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(Continued from Page Six -
African Burial Ground
Commemorative Stamp:

former Federal Steering
Committee Member, recommends
the following plan of action in
his letter to Dr. Sherrill D.
Wilson, Ph.D., Editor,
Newsletter of the African
Burial Ground & Five Points
Archaeological Projects, Winter
1995, Vol. 1, Number 6:

1) We should begin by demanding
that our Congressional
Representatives inundate the
Postmaster's Office with
letters of support for the
African Burial Ground
Commemorative Stamp.

2) We should increase our
efforts to collect at least
100,000 signatures for our
petition. Completed petitions
should continue to be sent to
OPEI to be submitted directly
to the Postmaster General.

3) I am also recommending that
we extend the deadline for
collecting signatures.

NOTE: In accordance with the
above recommendation, NJ-AAHGS
will continue to circulate
petitions. Please pick up your
petition at our June 10, 1995
meeting. We will only have 20
days to obtain additional
signatures by the June 30th
deadline. Your help is needed
ASAP.

The Jean Sampson Scott
Greater New York Chapter AAHGS
is generating a Surname Index

under the sponsorship of the
Afro-American Historical and
Genealogical Society, Inc.
Forms for the surnames you are
researching will be available
at the June 10th meeting. They
can be completed and mailed
directly to the AAHGS/Jean
Sampson Scott New York Chapter,
P.O. Box 022340, Brooklyn, N.Y.
11202-0049.

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Amanda Edwards, Queries &
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Anna Durham, Archivist
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Elizabeth Peale Johnson,
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REMINDERS

Saturday, June 10, 1995 -
12:00 Noon:-
NJ-AAHGS will hold its year-
end meeting. Speaker:
Winifred Washington - "How
You Can Put Your Family
History in Booklet Form."

HAPPY ANCESTOR HUNTING - SUMMER
1995!