

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

Vol. 2, Number 3

March 1990

Meeting Announcement

THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AAHGS

will meet
Saturday, March 10, 1990
at 12:00 Noon
at the
Afro-American Historical
Museum
1841 Kennedy Boulevard
Jersey City, N.J.

AGENDA

BUSINESS SESSION

PROGRAM

Members Lucius A. Bowser and
Lloyd E. Washington will dis-
cuss their experiences in re-
searching their families.

REFRESHMENTS by

Odell and Lloyd E. Washington

EVERYONE WELCOME - FAMILY AND
FRIENDS!

NOTE: Officers and Committee
Chairpersons -Preliminary
meeting at 10:30 a.m. to
discuss important matters.

New Member - February 1990 -

WELCOME

Kimberly Howard,
Scotch Plains, N.J.

A Genealogy Workshop will be
conducted at the Schomburg Cen-
ter for Research in Black Cul-
ture on Saturday, March 24, 1990,
515 Lenox Avenue at 135th St. NYC.
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. For
further details (212) 862-4000.

Janice Jenkins is not only an
enthusiastic member of NJAAHGS,
she is also an aspiring actress.
She is currently performing at
Cooper Square Theatre, 50 East 7 St.
NYC in The Wreckin' Ball through
March 11th. See page 2 for ticket info.

REMINDER

Remember to bring items for the
auction which will take place
at the AAHGS Annual Conference
in May in Washington, D.C. We
are thankful to the following
members who have already con-
tributed:

Lenora W. McKay
Ellen Thorne Morris
Lloyd E. Washington
Elizabeth Peale Johnson

Please check your February news-
letter for suggested items, AND
BRING AN ITEM TO OUR MARCH MEETING.

Thanks to member Ellen Thorne Morris,
The following books have been contri-
buted for use in our family research:

Profile of A Black Heritage by
Lester F. Russell;
Free Blacks of Anne Arundel
County, Maryland, 1850, by
Ralph Clayton; and
Register of Black, Mulatto and
Poor Persons in Four Ohio
Counties by Joan Turpin.

Please contact Betty Johnson
(875-4802) if you are interested
in borrowing any of the above
books.

DID YOU KNOW?

Compiled

By Lloyd E. Washington

In the Civil War New Jersey did
not itself organize any Regiments
of Colored Troops (Black). New
Jersey recruits and substitutes
were assigned to Regiments else-
where and credited to New Jersey.
Most of the nearly 2900 Black New
Jersey soldiers served in Infan-
try Regiments, though a few served
in Calvary Units and 469 died in
Service. (Freedom Not Far Distant,
Clement A. Price,

(Continued from page 1) -

Janice Jenkins

Performances for The Wreckin' Ball with Janice Jenkins will be held Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00. For ticket reservations call (212) 228-0811.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FUTURE MEETINGS AND
EVENTS

- April 21 - Noon, Installation of Officers by Sylvia Cook Martin, National President of AAHGS, at the Afro-American Museum, in Jersey City, N.J.
- May 3-5 - National AAHGS Conference, Washington, D. C.
- June (date and time to be announced) - Visit to National Archives Branch in Bayonne, N.J.
- July 14 - Member Ellen Thorne Morris will host our meeting at her home in Monmouth County.
- August and September - Programs to be announced.
- October - Annual Meeting and Family History Exhibit.

FAMILY HISTORY EXHIBIT

Although we were unable to prepare a family history exhibit as we anticipated for Black History Month, we are still collecting family photos for an exhibit to coincide with our first anniversary in October 1990. Thus far we have received photos, documents and other material from Janice Jenkins, Anna Durham, Antoinette Johnson Neals and Betty Johnson, and Billy Pruitt has shown us a voluminous collection of family photos and documents for our exhibit. Please continue to bring these items to our meetings for our exhibit as we plan ahead for the Fall!

1990 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Our membership campaign, under the leadership of Lucius A. Bowser, is bearing fruit from Sussex County at the most northern part of New Jersey, to Vineland at the southernmost tip. Please give our Chairman your fullest support in our 1990 drive. Let's double our membership by our March meeting!

MEMBERSHIP IN THE AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY IS REQUIRED TO JOIN THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER:

January 1 - December 31, 1990
\$25.00.....Individual
\$30.00.....Family (Spouse)
Please make check payable to AAHGS and forward to our Treasurer:
Mrs. Odell Washington
18 Lindsley Avenue
Maplewood, N.J. 07040

In order to defray Chapter expenses, annual dues are payable to the NJAAHGS in the amount of \$12.00. Kindly make separate check payable to NJAAHGS and mail to Treasurer at the above address. These dues will also cover the period January 1-December 31, 1990.

CAN YOU HELP?

One of our members is endeavoring to write a history of the Church of Incarnation in Jersey City which will be celebrating its 80th Anniversary on October 7, 1990. If you, or anyone in your family attended this church and can provide information, please contact
Mrs. Antoinette Johnson Neals
(201) 433-9342 (home)
(201) 433-6619 (office)
Lucius A. Bowser has already provided the names of former members of the Church of the Incarnation to Mrs. Neals.

Family History Exhibit (Cont.)
Lucius Bowser has also contributed family photos to the Family History Exhibit.

DID YOU KNOW?

Compiled by LLOYD E. WASHINGTON

1. What two States had no slave population in the first U.S. Census of 1790?
2. How many slaves did New Jersey have in the First U.S. Census?
A. None B. 6,782 C. 11,423
3. What State had the most slaves in the first U.S. Census?
4. What was the population of New Jersey in the 1790 U.S. Census?
5. What was the population of the U.S. in the First Census?

(See Answers on reverse side - Page 4)

Lloyd E. Washington, our liaison to the New York Chapter AAHGS, attended a meeting of the New York Chapter on Sunday February 18 at which Madrue Chavers-Wright spoke about the book she has written about her father, P.W. Chavers, who was a banker, entrepreneur and philanthropist in Chicago's Black Belt in the 1920's. The New York Chapter meets every third Sunday at Mt. Morris Ascension Presbyterian Church, 15 Mt. Morris Park West (at 122nd Street) at 3:30 p.m. An invitation has been extended to the New Jersey Chapter to visit these meetings at any time.

The Mt. Morris Ascension Presbyterian Church, The Africa Society, and the African Christian Council are sponsoring a trip to Ghana in August. There will be opportunities for religious experiences, cross cultural events, historic places of interest, visitation with Ghanaian families, and special workshops/seminars at the University of Ghana-Lagoon. The travel brochure with details concerning costs will be available at the NJAAHGS meeting on March 10th.

Through Jessica Peters, a staff member of the New Jersey Historical Society, we received an inquiry from Nicholas Del Cioppo of Auburn, California concerning an Aaron Bracy who was from Camden, New Jersey, and possibly resided there in the 1850's. Kindly advise whether you have done any research on the surname Bracy. Mr. Del Cioppo's letter will be available at our March meeting. Mr. Del Cioppo states that Aaron Bracy was possibly involved in a dispute over a land boundary in Auburn, California and that one of the local histories describes him as a 'bold, desperate Negro.'

Program Chairman, Glenn D. Cunningham, welcomes ideas for programs. Please see him at our meetings and discuss any program possibilities with him.

Please see Theresa Thomas at our meetings if you are a new researcher and need guidance in the proper method of proceeding with your family research. She developed a wonderful packet of materials which are very helpful to beginners and is anxious to help!

New Publication from the Smithsonian Institute: "Soldier of the Cross" - audio cassette tells the story of Richard Allen, an African American born into slavery in 1760 who later became the founder and first bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The tape includes excerpts from his autobiography and 1801 hymnal and six hymns sung in their entirety. To order, write to American Sampler, Room MBB66, NMAH, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C. 20560-\$8.00.

The following was supplied through Shirley H. Goetz from Murray Hill, N.J. who is a member of the Genealogy Club of the New Jersey Historical Society:

BLACK FAMILIES FOUND IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF NEW PROVIDENCE, NEW JERSEY, RECORDS
(Partial listing)

Records of Rev. Jonathan Elmer

Baptisms

1786, 19th February, baptized prince, a negro man.

Marriages

1790, 31st July, Married Frank a negro man belonging to Isaac Roll, and Nance a wench belonging to Isaac Crane

1796, 19th October, married Mr. Tite Scudder & Miss Margee Potter
Africans 14 Negroes attended.

(More in Next Newsletter)

THANKS VERY MUCH TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS NEWSLETTER. Please forward news by March 15th for the April 1990 newsletter to Betty Johnson, R.D. 1, Box 638, Sussex, N.J. 07461 (201) 875-4802.

Source of Answers-Bureau of the Census in 1907-8 Printed Schedules-
Microfilm T-498, Roll #1,1790.

4-184,139	5-3,893,035	3-Virginia
1-Maine-Massachusetts	2-11,423	

ANSWERS TO QUIZ on Page 3: