

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

Vol. 3, Number 3

March 1991

## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AAHGS

will meet

Saturday, March 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

### Announcements

Reports - Officers and  
Committee Chair-  
persons

PROGRAM: THEODORE BRUNSON, Director  
of the Afro-American Historical  
Society Museum, and  
NJ-AAHGS Vice-President, will  
speak on -

"Conservation Techniques for  
Photographs and Other Family  
Treasures."

Mr. Brunson has been the Director  
of the Afro-American Historical  
Society Museum since 1984. He is  
a member of the Bergen County  
Historical Society and New Jersey  
and New York Historical Societies,  
as well as the American Assn. of  
Museums and the African American  
Museums Assn.

NOTE: Bring a sandwich and dessert. Beverage  
will be provided.

EVERYONE WELCOME - RELATIVES AND FRIENDS!

## WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS:

Mrs. Claudine Brinkley Austin  
Ms. Bernice Brinkley Jackson  
40 Norman Road  
Newark, N.J. 07106

## Note:

Mrs. Claudine Brinkley Austin is on  
the staff of the New Jersey  
Historical Society. An exhibit of  
photographs and documents relating  
to the Brinkley family of Newark  
will be on display at the Newark  
City Hall until April 1st. Plan  
to visit this exhibit.

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - THANK YOU

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold E. Brown  
383 Knickerbocker Avenue  
Englewood, N.J. 07631

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR - APRIL 1991:

April 6, 13 & 20 - "Your Roots-  
the Beginning"-a course for  
beginners at the New Jersey  
Historical Society. For details  
call Jessica Peters (201) 483-3939.

April 13, 1991 - "Planning a Family  
Reunion" - NJAAHGS Member  
Billy Pruitt; Presentation by  
member Richard Dickenson and  
representatives of the (Thomas V.)  
Jackson Cousins Association. Regular  
NJ-AAHGS meeting.

April 20, 1991 - A Genealogy Workshop-  
"Oral History - The African Griot"  
at the Countee Cullen Library,  
104 W. 137th St. at Lenox Ave., NYC,  
by the Jean Sampson Scott AAHGS.  
For details contact  
Pres. Antonia Cottrell Martin  
(212) 799-0322.

AN INTERVIEW WITH NJ-AAHGS MEMBER

LAMARR ROBINSON

Lamarr Robinson began this interview by saying, "I got started in genealogy by joining in fellowship with the New Jersey Chapter AAHGS. I began my research after the October 1990 Annual Genealogy Workshop."

Lamarr is a resident and native of Jersey City (Hudson County) New Jersey. His father, Joseph Robinson, was born in Middle Township (Orangeburg Co.) S.C. His brothers and sisters include Gregory Joseph Robinson, Terence Robinson and Michelle Robinson, all residents of Jersey City, and Gwendolyn (Robinson) Garnes, a resident of Cranberry/Princeton Township, N.J.

The fact that both parents and many of the older relatives in the family are still living is an advantage to Lamarr, who ranks oral history research among the five important methods he relied on as a beginning genealogist.

Lamarr said that he obtained an album in 1977-78 in which Alex Haley told the story of his search for his roots. Lamarr commented, "I set it on tape so I could listen to it everywhere I went by way of my Walkman. This tape and my desire to know my family history were the driving forces behind my getting started in genealogy."

In addition to oral history, Lamarr found obituaries, census records, birth certificates and death certificates important to his research. He said that in the beginning he devoted five hours a day, four days a week, to his investigations. He has now narrowed this to spending five hours a day each on Mondays and Wednesdays. Lamarr is a self-starter and is self-disciplined. These are personal characteristics which are valuable in researching family history.

The challenges Lamarr faces are to find the maiden name of one of his ancestors, Lavicey Glover, (Orangeburg, S. C., Middle Township, 1870 Federal Census report). She is said to be of Native-American ancestry (Cherokee Nation); and to locate the parents of another ancestor, Charles Robinson (Orangeburg, S.C. Middle Township) and the maiden name of his first wife, Maggie (Margaret) and his second wife, Anna.

Lamarr's advice to young people is to ask questions of your elders while they are living and well. Put your priorities in place, become organized, and be diligent in your research. When possible, record information on audio cassettes or hand written fact sheets. Don't leave it to memory!! Be on the lookout for hidden clues. (Interviewer - Elizabeth Peale Johnson)

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NJ-AAHGS DIRECTORY

(All 201 Area Code Except as noted)

- |   |                |  |          |
|---|----------------|--|----------|
| Elizabeth Peale Johnson, Pres.                        | 875-4802       | Glenn D. Cunningham, Research Projects Chr. & Prog. Asst.            | 433-3487 |
| Theodore Brunson, V. Pres.                            | 547-5262       | Lloyd E. Washington, Program Chr. & Liaison, NY & NJ Chapters, AAHGS | 763-4949 |
| Janice Jenkins, Secy.                                 | 451-4940       | Lucius A. Bowser, Membership & Public Relations Chr.                 | 763-5892 |
| Odell Washington, Treas. & Finance Chr.               | 763-4949       | Arnold E. Brown, By-Laws Chr. and Journal Asst. Editor               | 567-4628 |
| Theresa L. Thomas, Coord. Assist. to New Genealogists | 460-4355       |  |          |
| Lisa Crawley, Journal Editor                          | (908) 354-1353 |  |          |

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BY LAWS

Art. VII, Sec. 1, B.

B. The annual meeting shall be held in October of each year, the date and place to be set by the Executive Committee.

Art. VIII, Sec. 2, B.

B. Prepare the slate of candidates for presentation to the Board of Directors in June of each election year.

NEW ARTICLE

ARTICLE XII: DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the New Jersey Chapter of The Afro-American Historical And Genealogical Society, the board of directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payments of all the liabilities of the chapter, dispose of the remaining assets of the chapter exclusively for one or more exempt purposes, within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future Federal tax code), or shall distribute the same to the Federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by order of Superior Court of the State of New Jersey in the judicial district where the principal office of the chapter is then located, exclusively for such purpose or to such organizations, organized and operated exclusively for such purposes, as said Court shall determine.

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NOTE: According to Article X: Amendments of NJ-AAHGS By-Laws, Article 3 states "The By-laws Committee shall publish the proposed amendments in the Chapter's newsletter before submitting them to the Board of Directors for consideration." Accordingly, the Proposed amendments to the By-Laws are herewith published in the NJ-AAHGS March 1991 issue of the Newsletter. In accordance with Section 4 of Article X, all members will receive a ballot for voting by mail.

(Copies of By-Laws will be available at the March meeting) Arnold E. Brown, Chairman  
By-Laws Committee

MONMOUTH COUNTY, - NEW JERSEY

FAMILIES OF COLOR IN 1880

by

Ellen Thorne Morris

Copies for Sale at NJ-AAHGS  
March 1991  
Meeting



## AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 73086  
Washington, D.C. 20056-3086

### EARLY BIRD CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!

1991 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
MAY 2 - 4, 1991  
HOLIDAY INN-CAPITOL  
550 C STREET SW  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Fourteenth Annual Conference of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society will be held May 2 - 4, 1991 at the Holiday Inn-Capitol in Washington, D.C. The theme for the conference will be **Connections: Global Dimensions of the Black Experience.**

Hotel accommodations: The Holiday Inn Capitol offers single and double room at \$85 [plus prevailing taxes at the time of arrival] per night. *Reservations must be made directly through the hotel by calling (202) 479-4000. To receive the conference rate, reservations must be made no later than 1 APRIL 1991.*

**Vendors and Exhibitors:** As part of the Conference events, we have invited vendors and exhibitors to display their items. All vendors and exhibitors have paid a fee for the space they are using. Individuals who bring items for sale will not be permitted to sell materials in the vending or exhibit areas unless the fee has been paid in advance.

For additional information, write to AAHGS, P.O. 73086, Washington, DC 20056-3086 or call Mrs. Barbara Walker at (202) 829-8970. Contact Dean Harry Bradshaw Matthews for information concerning proposals for presentations at (717) 337-6311.

The conference will include activities designed to meet a variety of genealogical and historical needs, as expressed in the evaluations from previous conferences. There will be a one-day workshop concerned with family research, conducted by internationally noted genealogist, James Dent Walker, for those interested in learning more about how to research your family [preregistration is required and participation is limited to the first fifty registrants].

(The following article was carried in an issue of the Somerset County Historical Quarterly and discovered by NJ-AAHGS member R. Boulton Dickenson in the course of his research. Efforts are being made to identify the Journal issue in which this appeared. In the meantime, we will include part of the article here and part in the April and May 1991 issues of the NJ-AAHGS newsletter:

REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORD OF A SOMERSET COUNTY SLAVE

By the Editor of the Quarterly

Investigations recently made by the Editor of the Quarterly among the unpublished records in the possession of the New Jersey State Historical Society, in search of materials throwing light upon either the Colonial or Revolutionary period of Somerset history, disclosed a booklet which passed from Dr. Lewis Condict, of Morristown, to the Rev. Joseph F. Tuttle (a writer of much Morris county history), and probably from him to the State Society. The small work, which is in manuscript, and in places difficult to read, being in fact notes taken on sheets of paper of various sizes during the years 1833, 1834, and perhaps for a year or two later, has a paper cover inscribed "Genealogical Notices of Various New Jersey families, Collected by Lewis Condict from Applications for Pensions and other Sources." The writing is so small, and often with so many contractions in spelling, that it would require much time and patience to transcribe even portions of what might prove, to a large number of families in Somerset, Morris and Union counties, an intensely interesting record of Revolutionary services..... We begin with the record of a slave, Samuel Sutphin, because it is one of the longest, most full, and clearest of all the statements made by a Somerset soldier. Sutphin was in his 87th year, as a marginal note states, and if he gave the particulars in nearly the language set down he must have had a fine memory for one of his age. No white soldier could have done better.

It will be noted that Sutphin was first a slave of Guisbert Bogart who resided along the Raritan river near the Peter D. Vroom place. Bogart died July 28, 1785, aged 65 years, as his tombstone on the old Vroom farm shows. His next master, in whose place he served as soldier, was Casper Berger, of Readington, the German who came over in 1744, a stone-mason by trade, and a Redemptioner; i.e. he was sold by the captain of his ship to repay the costs of passage. ....His subsequent owners were Peter Ten Eyck, probably of new North Branch, Rev. John Duryea, pastor of the Raritan (Somerville) Dutch church and Bedminster, and lastly, Peter Sutphen, who was probably the one of that name in Bedminster township, grandfather of the late Arthur P. Sutphen of Somerville.

The Captain Matthias Lane, under whom the slave Sutphin first served, was either the Matthias Lane, of Bedminster township (numbered 55 in the article on "The Lane Families," now running in the Quarterly), or the Matthias Lane of near Whitehouse (numbered 49). Other names appear in the narrative which must interest some of our readers, and some of the incidents noted will throw much light on the kinds of warfare and marches the soldiers of the Revolution had to undertake.

(NOTE - See the April 1991 Issue of the NJ-AAHGS Newsletters for the continuation of this article and the fascinating account of Slave Samuel Sutphin who served in the Revolutionary War)

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**THE ASSOCIATION TO PRESERVE THE EATONVILLE COMMUNITY, INC.  
(P.E.C.)**

**ANNOUNCES**

**THE THIRD ANNUAL  
ZORA NEALE HURSTON FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

**JANUARY 23-26, 1992  
Eatonville, Florida  
(The Hometown of the Author)**

**Theme:**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES: WITNESSES TO CULTURAL SURVIVING**

**Invited Disciplines:**

Scholars in the arts and humanities as well as the social sciences are welcomed to submit papers which may reflect any variety of disciplinary methodologies, ideological perspectives, or philosophical orientations.

**Breadth of Subject:**

Sub-themes include cultural history, folklore, artistic traditions, archaeological reconstruction, political strategies, and structural analyses of both extant and extinct African American communities, whether autonomous towns or communities within larger municipalities.

**ONLY 250-WORD, ONE-PAGE ABSTRACTS WILL BE CONSIDERED.**

**FIRM DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 1991 (POSTMARK)**

**Mailing Address:**

**HURSTON PAPERS, '92  
P.E.C., Inc.  
P.O. Box 2586  
Eatonville, Florida 32751**

**NOTE:** Contact NJ-AAHGS Member Lisa Crawley if you are interested in attending this conference in 1992 - (908) 354-1353.