

AAHGS

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

Volume 5, Number 3

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1993

NJ-AAHGS will meet Saturday, March 13, 1993, at 12 Noon at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N.J. (2nd fl.)

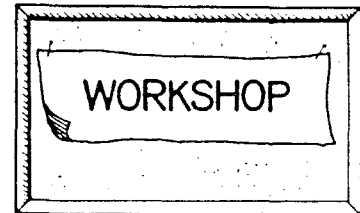
Program Chairman Lloyd E. Washington will conduct a Fun Quiz on Black history and genealogy. A prize will be awarded to the winner.

Bring your genealogy problems to this meeting for the "Can We Help?" session following the quiz.

Carolyn Williams will be our guest at this meeting. She is the Coordinator of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of African-American Genealogy Groups; Past President of the African-American Genealogy Group of Philadelphia; and President of the United States Colored Troops Memorial Committee, Inc. We will be honored to have Carolyn join us in this meeting.

As usual, beverage and dessert will be provided. NJ-AAHGS members may bring bag lunches.

NOTE: The Greenville Library, in which NJ-AAHGS meets, closes at 1 pm due to fiscal cutbacks. If the door is locked, please call the Museum at 547-5262 from the telephone in front of the Library. Someone will come down and admit you.



The New Jersey Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. will present a free Workshop on Tracing Your Family Roots on Saturday, March 27, 1993, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Newark Public Library, 5 Washington St., Newark, N.J., 4th floor Auditorium. All welcome. The program will be open to the public. Beginning researchers will benefit from this workshop. Plan to attend. (For further details, contact Lloyd E. Washington, (201) 763-4949.)

KEEP IN MIND FUTURE CHAPTER MEETINGS

(Meetings will begin at 12:00 Noon)

April 10 - Video originally scheduled for our January meeting on "New Jersey Women, Past and Present," will be shown; also Member Sharing of research progress.

May 8 - Second session of "Can We Help?" Bring your genealogy problems to this meeting.

June 12 - Discussion - "How to Get Family History information at Family Reunions and Vacation Visits."

July and August - NO MEETINGS - HAPPY RESEARCHING!

From the President to All NJ-AAHGS Chapter members:

I plan to attend the annual AAHGS conference. Reservations were made with Continental for 4/28 to St. Louis and return 5/2 to Newark, fare \$139. round trip. If you wish to attend the conference, please contact me at once for pre-registration information.

Elizabeth Peale Johnson, 124 Mt. Salem Road, Wantage, N.J. 07461 -(201) 875-4802.

Coming
Soon!

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1993 ROOTS, ROUTES, REASONS AND RESULTS

The planning committee for the 1993 Annual Conference has announced the preliminary plans for this year's conference which will be held on April 29, 30, and May 1, 1993 at the Knight's Court Hotel in Carbondale, Illinois.

Housing

Eighty-five rooms have been reserved for conference attendees. The prices are: \$55 per night for a double or a single. Please make your room reservations by contacting Knight's Court directly. (Telephone 618/529-1108; FAX: 618/ 457-0292.) When making reservations, please indicate that you are with the AAHGS group. Reservations should be made prior to April 14, 1993.

Transportation

Carbondale, Illinois is located in the southern end of the state. The nearest major airport serving Carbondale is Lambert International Field in St. Louis, Missouri, which is approximately 100 miles (2 and 1/2 hour drive) from Carbondale. TWA offers a commuter air service to Marion, Il., which is about 20 minutes from Carbondale. There is also a commuter van service to Carbondale called BART. It is available at a \$38.00 cost.

If enough persons will be flying in to St. Louis within a few hours of each other, the Carbondale Chapter can make arrangements to drive you via a van from the airport to Carbondale for a fee of about \$30.00 each way. Please contact the AAHGS Little Egypt chapter in Carbondale for additional details.

Amtrak offers a late evening service from St. Louis to Carbondale, and from Chicago, there are two daily trains both leaving in the afternoon or early evening hours. The train ride from Chicago is approximately 5 and 1/2 hours. If you are travelling by car, the nearest East-West Interstates are Interstate 64 and Interstate 70. Interstate 57 is the nearest north-south Interstate

Conference Registration

The conference registration form should be completed and returned to AAHGS, P.O. Box 73086, Washington, D.C. 20056-3086. For those wishing to pre-register, checks or money orders must be postmarked no later than March 22. Refund requests must be received on or before April 1, 1993.

PANAFEST '92
(December 9-23, 1992)

By M. Leon Banks



The beautiful and rich country of Ghana is located on the west coast of the continent of Africa. It has a population of 14 million people, and is somewhat larger than the area of the State of Minnesota, with a mean temperature of 75-80 degrees.

The well-known host of radio Station WLIB in New York City, Imhotep Gary Byrd, and his wife, Ptahnubia, led our tour group. Surprise guests of honor were Dr. and Mrs. Marcus Garvey, Jr. There were altogether 35 congenial African-Americans and African-Caribbean tourists who made the trip so pleasurable.

In Ghana we were greeted by many dignitaries, including the President of Ghana, Lt. Jerry J. Rawlins; a king and many chiefs. We had the distinct honor of being the very first guests at the inception of this great cultural and festive occasion. This is what made this trip so special.

The entire Panafest '92 exploded with activities in the nation's capital of Accra at the Cape Coast Theater, the jumping off point of so many spectacular events, including performances by Isaac Hayes and Public Enemy and a number of Ghanaian musicians.

We were also fortunate to have three professors from the

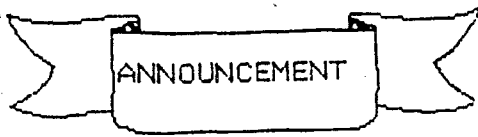
university to accompany us as we toured the various places and activities, such as lectures, symposiums, and witnessed the enstooling of Imhotep Gary Byrd and Marcus Garvey, Jr. at two different villages (ceremonies installing them as chiefs). We also visited the slave dungeon (the door of no return in Elmina Castle), the Black Star Square at Independence Circle, the Kwame Nkrumah and W. E. Dubois memorials, the nation's largest open central city market place, and many more things to attract and delight us.

Now I feel complete because there's a feeling of belonging here. There is such gratification in knowing that we were part of rediscovering our roots, and to be where it all began.

You simply owe it to yourself to come for the next Panafest in 1994! Visit the wonderful Motherland and its warm, hospitable people. They truly make you feel so welcome, wanted and not just tolerated.

Finally, towards the end of the journey, we were graciously given a sumptuous farewell dinner and performance at the home of the Commissioner of Tourism in the suburbs of the city of Accra, and we bid adieu.

(For details on the 1994 Panafest, contact M. Leon Banks (201) 676-4955.



The following essay was awarded first prize at the February 1993 meeting of the NJ Chapter. This was selected from among 32 entries submitted by eighth-grade students of P.S. 34 in Jersey City, N.J.

Why Black History Is Important
To Me

By Patrighardy Daley

I think Black history should be important to everyone. We should know something about what people did for us. We should also know what black history is all about.

Our generation does not appreciate what was done for us. We do not know how our ancestors fought for their freedom. We ought to know how to work in unity and to pool our resources. Black history shows how our ancestors worked as one to overcome discrimination and other racial barriers. Today we fight against ourselves and that brings us further apart.

Black leaders fought for us so that our generation and future generations will have equal opportunity, equal rights and justice. Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to end segregation and discrimination against American Blacks. Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave, repeatedly returned to free slaves from the South. These two people are a part of Black history, and there are a lot more who did things of significance, which made it better for us.

I think Black history is one of the most important things in my life. It shows me what our ancestors went through in order for us to have a better life. They went through many hardships for us. We, today, take everything for granted, instead of appreciating what they've been through. We should have pride in what we do. We should not criticize another for their wrong doing, but try to help them. This is what Black history means to me and should mean to everyone else.

Patrighardy was awarded a U. S. Savings Bond; 2nd place winner, Melinda Harrison, was awarded a Black Heritage Stamp Collection, and 3rd place winner, Shakara Baisen, received a set of Black History booklets.

We were happy that Assistant Principal Christine Myrlak was in attendance for the presentations.

Thanks to Lloyd Washington, Program Chairman, and Judges Betty Johnson, Lucius A. Bowser, Sandra Bolden and Odell Washington for making the final essay selections.

Thanks also to Principal Delores J. Foster, for her assistance in working with Program Chairman Lloyd who was instrumental in organizing this program and bringing it to a successful conclusion.

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New Members

Gustave Thomas and
Dr. Frances J. Dunston
1016 River Road
West Trenton, N.J. 08628

James J. McCoy
9533 B James Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19114-3043

NOTICE

TO: N. J. AAHGS Chapter
Membership

FROM: Elizabeth Peale Johnson,
President

RE: Election of Officers for
the Term 1993-1995.

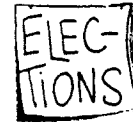
The New Jersey Chapter
Executive Board authorized the
selection of a Nominating
Committee at its January 30,
1993, meeting, in preparation
for election of officers.

We are grateful to the
following members for
consenting to serve on the
Nominating Committee:

Amanda Edwards, Chairperson
14 Gillville Lane, PO Box 83
Middletown, N.J. 07748
(908) 671-1216

Lisa Crawley (908) 352-8015
1090 Mary St.
Elizabeth, N.J. 07201

Willie Pruitt, (201) 481-6555
145 Van Nostrand Ave.
Jersey City, N.J. 07305



The following offices are
open for nominations for the
1993-1995 term:

PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT
SECRETARY

The current officers in these
positions have served for two
2-year terms, the limit in
accordance with the Chapter By-
Laws.

Kindly confer with nominees
for any of the above positions
prior to submitting their
names.

Nominees are requested to
prepare and submit a brief
biographical statement and a
statement as to why they wish
to serve in an office.

The deadline for submitting
nominations will be April 1,
1993. Kindly submit all
nominations to the Chairman of
the Nominating Committee,
Amanda Edwards (See address and
telephone number in the column
to the left).

Under consideration is an
amendment to the By-Laws to
change the term of office for
the Treasurer to three two-year
terms in accordance with the
desires of the Executive Board
to provide continuity in record
keeping. A notice regarding
the proposed amendment will be
given in the April 1993
newsletter.

At the completion of the
nominating process, ballots
will be mailed to all members.

WEATHER TEAM REPRESENTATIVES

In the event of severe weather, a meeting may be cancelled, particularly during the winter months. If in doubt as to whether a meeting will be held, call your County representative listed below by 8 a.m. the day of the scheduled meeting:

Lloyd Washington (Essex Co.)

(201) 763-4949.

Glenn Cunningham (Hudson Co.)

(201) 433-3487.

Bernice Jackson (Bergen Co.)

(201) 375-2794.

Amanda Edwards (Monmouth Co.)

(908) 671-1216.

Lisa Crawley (Union Co.)

(908) 352-8015.

Lucius Bowser (Mercer Co.)

(201) 763-5892.

Lillian Page (Passaic Co.)

(201) 916-0114.

Elizabeth Peale Johnson,

(Middlesex Co.)

(201) 875-4802.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON BLACK FIRSTS
In February 1993 Newsletter

1. Ensign Jessie L. Brown-1926.
2. Ernest Morial-1978.
3. Capt. Wm. Pickney.
4. Dr. Susan McKinney.
5. Harold (Hal) Jackson.
6. Derrick Bell.
7. Wm. T. Coleman.
8. Col. Mae Jamieson.
9. Earl L. Eaton.
10. Leonard Cook.

(Quiz and Answers submitted by
Lucius A. Bowser)

LISA CRAWLEY has accepted responsibility as the New Jersey Chapter's Archivist and has prepared guidelines for storing and preserving our records. Thanks, Lisa!

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

New Jersey Chapter members were active throughout the month of February.....CONGRATULATIONS for spreading the message about African-American history and genealogy in many ways.....

KIMBERLY MANDISA HOWARD on performances of her two plays, "In the Company of Twelve," and "Tight Ropes,".....THEODORE

BRUNSON for the impressive exhibit on four New Jersey families, "The African American Family from Slavery to Freedom"....THEODORE BRUNSON

and GLENN CUNNINGHAM for conducting a program on Hudson County African-American History for the Bayonne Historical Society.....BERTHA HEATH for involvement in many programs in Monmouth County during the month, including one on African-American Local History at the First Unitarian Church in Lincroft.....LLOYD WASHINGTON

for his presentation on New Jersey African-Americans serving in the Civil War for the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield.....DR. GEORGETTE CAMPBELL, who shared her family history with students at Redwood Middle School in West Orange.....ELIZABETH PEALE JOHNSON, who spoke on beginning genealogy at a program for the Black Student organization at Raritan Valley Community College.....NJ-AAHGS for co-sponsoring Dr. Clement Price as speaker with the GENEALOGY CLUB of the NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

REMINDER

March 27 - 1-3 p.m., Workshop on "Tracing Your Family Roots." See details 1st page.

APPLICATION - NATIONAL SOCIETY

APPLICATION - NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Name _____

Name _____

Full name of Spouse _____

Full name of Spouse _____

Mailing Address _____

Mailing Address _____

(St., Ave., La., Ct., Apt. #, PO Box #)

(St., Ave., La., Ct., Apt. #, PO Box #)

(City) (State) (Zip)

(City) (State) (Zip)

Telephone No. _____

County _____ Telephone No. _____

Fees: Youth \$15 Indiv. \$25 Family \$30 Company \$35
(Circle one)

Fees: Indiv. \$12 Family \$20 Company \$35 Patron \$250
(Circle one)

Date _____ Signature: _____

Date _____ Signature: _____

(NOTE: THIS FORM MAY ALSO BE USED FOR NEW MEMBERSHIPS)

MAKE SEPARATE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AAHGS and NJ-AAHGS

MAIL BOTH TO: Mrs. Odell Washington
Treasurer - NJ-AAHGS
18 Lindsley Avenue
Maplewood, NJ 07040

NJ-AAHGS Directory (all 201 Area Code, except where otherwise noted)

Elizabeth Peale Johnson, Pres.	875-4802
Theodore Brunson, V. Pres.	547-5262
Janice Jenkins, Secy.	451-4940
Odell Washington, Treas. & Finance Chr.	763-4949
Lisa Crawley, Archivist	(908) 352-8015
Lloyd E. Washington, Program Chr. & Liaison NY-NJ	763-4949
Glenn D. Cunningham, Research Proj. Chr. & Prog. Asst.	433-3487
Lucius A. Bowser, Membership Chr.	763-5892
	567-4628

PLEASE FORWARD ALL ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH TO:
ELIZABETH PEALE JOHNSON, 124 Mt. Salem Road, Wantage, New Jersey 07461-3725,
(201) 875-4802. THE NJ-AAHGS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY, EXCEPT FOR
THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST.