

AAHGS

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

Volume 5, Number 5

NEWSLETTER

May 1993

Announcing

NJ-AAHGS will meet Saturday, May 8, 1993, at 12 Noon at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N.J. (2nd fl.)

Guest speaker will be ELVIN MONTGOMERY, JR., a collector of Black memorabilia, books, documents, artifacts and autographs. He will share with us items from his collection and tell why the material is important to family historians.

Session 2 of "Can We Help?" will also be held.

Since this is the next to last meeting of the program year, we are urging all members to come out and join us.

Bring bag lunches. Beverage and dessert will be provided.

NOTE: The Greenville Library, in which NJ-AAHGS meets, closes at 1 p.m. 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.

This Newsletter contains the names and biographical information on the slate of officers submitted by the

Nominating Committee. Please read in preparation for the mail ballots which will be forwarded to all 1993 paid members the first week in May 1993.

In addition to the nominations, this newsletter contains proposed By-Laws amendments. A mailing to all paid members will be made to determine if you are in agreement with these proposed changes.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The final meeting of the year will be held Saturday, June 12, 1993, at 12 Noon, at the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N.J. Guest speaker will be Dr. Jack Washington, Trenton educator, whose second book on Black life in the capital of New Jersey, will be available for sale and autographing.

Members are also asked to bring an item that has been passed down in their families and share its history with the Chapter. It can be a document, a picture, a keepsake, etc.

Please give us the details of your 1993 Family Reunion plans.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Elizabeth Peale Johnson

There is still time to make plans to join us at the National Archives-Northeast Region Branch, at 201 Varick St., New York City. At least twelve members have indicated interest in this visit. Meet us at the Archives on Monday, May 17, 1993, or Monday, June 21, 1993. Public hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the third Saturday of every month, 8:30-4:00. We recommend arriving as close to 8:00 a.m. as possible. We are recommending two optional dates, May 17, or June 21. Come either date which is convenient for you. NJ-AAHGS members who are familiar with researching in the Archives will be on hand to orient and assist you.

Each member expressing interest in the Archives visit will receive alternative directions via the PATH and the NYC subway system. Due to the scarcity of parking space near the Archives, driving is not recommended. The Archives telephone number is (212) 337-1300.

As this newsletter is being prepared, the NJ-AAHGS Executive Committee is planning to host a meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of African American Genealogy Groups on Saturday, April 14, 1993, at the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N.J.

When you receive this

newsletter, Glenn D. Cunningham, Florence O. Amos and I will be in Carbondale, Illinois, attending the annual AAHGS conference.

If you have a copy of the Sunday, April 18, 1993, edition of The New York Times, New Jersey Section, you will see on pages 7C and 7D an article on genealogy which includes quotations by Lucius A. Bowser and Lloyd E. Washington. If you missed it, we will have a copy available at our May meeting.

I have been appointed to a two-year term on the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites and attended my first meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 1993, in Trenton.

Theodore Brunson, Director of the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, is busy, signing off on a grant from the City of Jersey City obtained through a presentation made by Glenn D. Cunningham before the Jersey City City Council. Glenn is on the Museum's Board and is to be congratulated for his deep interest in promoting African-American culture through the Museum. Ted Brunson deserves our respect and admiration for striving to keep the Museum alive in spite of shortage of staff and inadequate financial support.

We will miss Esther Lloyd when she moves to Virginia Beach in June. Thanks, Esther, for your contribution and support!

IMPORTANT

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AAHGS BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS. Section 4, amended to read:

A. Each officer, except the Treasurer, shall hold office for a term of two years or until a successor shall have been duly elected.

B. Elected officers, except the Treasurer, may serve no more than two (2) consecutive two-year terms.

C. The Treasurer may serve no more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms.

EXPLANATION: By-Laws change to permit a longer term for the position of Treasurer for the purpose of continuity and least disruption of banking and record-keeping.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES. Section 1, amended to read:

(Add to Standing Committees):

- F. Projects.
- G. Archival.
- H. Publications.

EXPLANATION: To add the committees which are already functioning, or about to function, for which a need has been demonstrated.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES.

Section 10, amended to read:

(Add)

Section 10. The Projects Committee shall:

A. Promote genealogical and/or historical research on African-American life in the State of New Jersey.

B. Present proposed projects to the Board of Directors, or Executive Committee, for review and approval.

Section 11. The Archival Committee shall:

A. Record, inventory, and maintain the records, posters, photographs and other matters relating to the history of the Chapter.

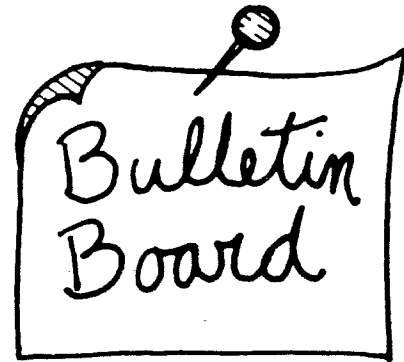
B. Consist of an Archivist, Librarians, and other assistants as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Committee.

C. Locate, secure and use and manage the facilities of a central repository for the storage of all Chapter archival materials.

D. Request of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee such funds needed for supplies and equipment for the said repository.

Section 12. The Publications Committee shall:

A. Consist of publication editors, contributors, feature writers, and other persons involved in producing the Chapter newsletter, journal, research project publication, and any other publications deemed necessary for the benefit of the Chapter.



Section 12. The Publications Committee : (Continued)

B. Shall review all aspects of producing Chapter publications, including costs, content and quality.

C. Shall make regular progress reports to the Executive Committee.

EXPLANATION: To add the Description and Duties of the proposed new Standing Committees.

THE FOREGOING PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS AND THE FOLLOWING SLATE OF OFFICERS SUBMITTED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE WILL BE MAILED THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY 1993 TO ALL MEMBERS WHO ARE CURRENT WITH THEIR 1993 DUES.

NOMINATIONS FOR 1993

(See Pages 6-7 for Biographical information on each candidate).

PRESIDENT:

Lucius A. Bowser
Lloyd E. Washington

VICE- PRESIDENT:

Glenn D. Cunningham

SECRETARY

Janice Jenkins

Nominating Committee

Amanda Edwards, Chr.
Lisa Crawley
Billy Pruitt

WELCOME to the following new Chapters:

HAMPTON CHAPTER AAHGS
Zach Lewis, President
228 Hankins Drive
Hampton, Va. 23669
(Recently chartered by
National President,
Barbara Walker).

LANDON CHEEK CHAPTER AAHGS
Margaret J. Durham, President
P.O. Box 23804
St. Louis, Mo. 63121-0804

The following Chapters are in the process of being organized:

RALEIGH, N.C. CHAPTER, AAHGS,
Philip Henry, Organizer.
ANNAPOLIS CHAPTER AAHGS,
Mats'udo Wallace, Organizer
RICHMOND, VA. CHAPTER AAHGS
Lorraine and Jerome Jackson,
Organizers.
LONG ISLAND CHAPTER AAHGS,
Harry Bradshaw Matthews,
Organizer.

May 15 - 1 - 3 p.m. The Jean Sampson Scott Chapter AAHGS will meet for a Genealogy Sharing session at the Countee Cullen Library, NYC.

May 15 - The Genealogy Club of the New Jersey Historical Society will meet at 10:00 am at 230 Broadway, Newark, N.J. Speaker: Thomas McNamara - Locating the Living: Part II.

BULLETIN BOARD Continued

May 22, 1993 - 9 am - 4:30 pm
Conference and Genealogy
Fair, at the State Museum of
Pennsylvania, Harrisburg.
Admission \$10. This will be
similar to the NYC Family
History Fair. Sponsored by
the Pennsylvania State
Archives and The Friends of
the Pennsylvania Historical
and Museum Commission. Call
(717) 783-3281 for further
details. NOTE: The Western
Pennsylvania Chapter AAHGS
and the Philadelphia African-
American Genealogy Group will
have display tables, and a
member of the Philadelphia
Group will be among the
presenters.

The April 1993 Newsletter
contained a Selected list of
Genealogical Sources at Newark
Public Library. Here is an
addition to that listing:

PASSENGER AND IMMIGRATION LISTS
INDEX: Multivolume guide to
published arrival records of
about 500,000 passengers who
came to the United States and
Canada.

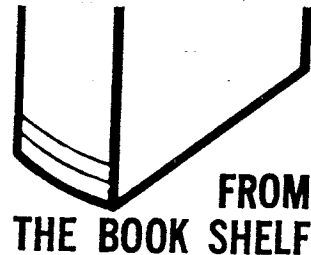
PERIODICALS DESK

AFRICAN-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS ON
MICROFILM: Afro-American
national edition 1893-, Atlanta
Daily World 1931-, Call and
Post (Cleveland) 1934-, Journal
and Guide (Norfolk) 1916-, Los
Angeles Sentinel 1969-,
Michigan Chronicle (Detroit)
1943-, Muslim Journal 1961-,
New York Amsterdam News 1961-,

St. Louis Argus 1954-.

OTHER NEWSPAPERS ON MICROFILM:

Los Angeles Times 1985-,
Washington Post 1972-.



(Submitted by Lisa Crawley)

How to Collect and Write Local
History by Marcia M. Miller
(c) 1975, Sunstone Press,
Santa Fe, New Mexico) at your
local library. This
informative pamphlet provides
all the "how to's" of tracing
local history. Highlights
include: sources for local
history and marketing,
copyright law and tips on
conducting oral history
sessions.

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Recent periodical acquisition
on African-American History and
Genealogy related to New
Jersey, includes the following:

"Never 'Auntie'" by Lisa
Jones, The Village Voice, March
2, 1993.- Jones, a Voice
columnist and daughter of Amiri
Baraka, paints a loving
portrait of her "adopted aunt,
Ms. Cora Coleman of Newark,
N.J., a decorated W.A.C., who
served in Japan during World
War II and later worked as a
court reporter in Essex County,
New Jersey.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AAHGS

Nominations for Office
Biographical Information on Candidates
1993-1995 Term

Candidate for President

LUCIUS A. BOWSER has served four years as Membership Chairman of the New Jersey Chapter AAHGS, 1989-1993. He has participated in genealogy workshops sponsored by the Chapter and has participated in and supported many other Chapter projects. He is President of the Genealogy Club of the New Jersey Historical Society - 1992-1994. He holds memberships in the New England Genealogical Society, Virginia Genealogical Society, North Carolina Genealogical Society and Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter AAHGS. Lucius earned a B.S. degree in Pharmacy from Rutgers College of Pharmacy and a Master's degree in Public Health from the Columbia School of Public Health. He entered the New Jersey State Health Department in 1962 and became Chief of the Drug Control Program, New Jersey State Department of Health, in 1980. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognition for his performance and service in the field of Pharmacy. He has traced the complete line of ancestor James Bowser from 1802 to the present and has identified 572 relatives.

Candidate for President

LLOYD E. WASHINGTON has served four years as Program Chairman of the New Jersey Chapter AAHGS, 1989-1993. He has organized genealogy workshops, compiled a "Start-Up Kit" for beginning genealogists, and has taken responsibility for designing and preparing Chapter poster displays and exhibits and coordination of programs for monthly meetings. He has been interested in genealogy since 1972 and has been actively researching since 1987 in New York State, Virginia and Connecticut. His interest in the Civil War began in 1989. He is currently gathering information on Black Troops in the Civil War for the purpose of publishing a booklet. He holds memberships in the New Jersey Historical Society, Connecticut Genealogists, Inc., The Afro-American Historical and Cultural Society Museum, Friends of the Civil War Library and Museum (Philadelphia, Pa.) and Friends of the Monmouth Battlefield, Freehold, N.J. Lloyd began his career with the New York City Transit Authority in 1955 and retired in 1985 as an Assistant Deputy Superintendent, Power Distribution, after 30 years of service. He is interested in becoming President of the New Jersey Chapter to aid in its future growth in the areas of assisting our members in research, the enlightenment of all people about the role of Blacks in New Jersey history, and responsiveness to the needs of our members.

Candidate for Vice-President

GLENN D. CUNNINGHAM has served as Special Projects Chairman of the New Jersey Chapter AAHGS for three years. He is currently heading a project to identify African-Americans residing in all of the 21 counties in the State of New Jersey in the U.S. 1880 Census. He has also participated in Chapter-sponsored genealogy workshops and supported the Chapter's activities. He conducted his genealogical research for sixteen years and is researching in Gloucester and Halifax Counties, Virginia; Person County, North Carolina; and Orangeburg, South Carolina. He is a member of the Genealogy Club of the New Jersey Historical Society and the North Carolina Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society. He has served as Trustee of the Afro-American Historical Society Museum for seven years. He also holds membership in the National Genealogical Society. His article entitled "The Hidden Lives of Waverly Plantation," published in the Journal of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Vol. 11, Nos. 1 & 2, Spring and Fall 1990, details the results of his research on Cunningham ancestors. He has done a great deal of research on the history of Blacks in Jersey City and was responsible for creating a video entitled "Hidden Footprints," which chronicles some of this history. Glenn has been very active in Jersey City political life, having served on the City Council for two four-year terms and as President for two terms. He received a B.A. degree from Jersey City State College and completed M.A. requirements in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University. He is currently serving as Director of Public Safety of Hudson County, N.J. He says that he would like to continue to contribute creative ideas, knowledge and leadership skills to the continued growth of the Chapter.

Candidate for Secretary

JANICE JENKINS served an unexpired term as Secretary when former Secretary Theresa Thomas resigned in 1990. She was elected to a term as Secretary for 1991-1993, and has consented to be placed on the ballot for election for 1993-1995. In addition to her duties as Secretary, Janice has participated in and supported the New Jersey Chapter AAHGS in many ways, particularly in the contribution she has made to performances for our Black History programs and the program on New Jersey Women held in September 1992. Janice still considers herself a "beginning genealogist;" however, she has managed to collect photographs of her parents, grandparents and great-grandparents and information concerning her Floridian ancestors in her limited time. Janice believes that networking in the New Jersey Chapter meetings promotes a continuing interest in her genealogical research. She received a B.A. degree from Emerson College in Boston and teaches acting and speech in a local community center in Jersey City. She was a founding member of a performing arts group known as the Hadley Players and is a member of the American Community Theatre.
