

# AAHGS

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

Volume 8, Number 5

NEWSLETTER

May 1995

## SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

Saturday, May 13, 1995.

NJ-AAHGS will host the Spring 1995 meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of African-American Genealogy Groups. NJ-AAHGS members are asked to make a special effort to be present to greet our guests from AAHGS-New York, AAHGS-Western Pennsylvania and the African-American Genealogy Group of Philadelphia.

10:30 a.m. NJ-AAHGS Executive Committee Meeting.

12:00 Noon-Greetings from Lloyd E. Washington, NJ-AAHGS President, followed by Lunch provided by the New Jersey Chapter.

### Program:

"The Legal Aspects of Involvement in Family History Research," will be discussed by Neal Brunson, Esq. and a second local attorney.

Plans for next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of African-American Genealogy Groups and reports from NJ, NY, W. Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia on their respective activities.

Adjournment.

NOTE: This meeting is being combined with the regular NJ-AAHGS meeting. All New Jersey members urged to attend with family and friends.



## REMINDER

### FAMILY REUNIONS COMING UP

Every year we publish a list of family reunions. Please provide us with the following about family reunions in time for publication in our June 1995 newsletter:

Surname of Family Sponsoring the Event.

Date or dates of Family Reunion.

Place where Family Reunion will take place, including city and State.

Bring this information to our May 1995 meeting, or mail it to Betty P. Johnson, Newsletter Editor, 124 Mt. Salem Road, Wantage, N. J. 07461-3725, Tel: (201) 875-4802.

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## IMPORTANT

Included among the ten most endangered sites in New Jersey cited in the Spring 1995 publication - Perspectives, the newsletter of Preservation New Jersey, is:

The New Jersey Manual Training School for Colored Youth in Burlington County. Many friends of the school want to save it. Can you help?

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On May 13, 1995, we will be hosting the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, 1841 Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, New Jersey, at 12:00 Noon.

Members of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of African-American Genealogy Groups are AAHGS-Greater New York, AAHGS-Western Pennsylvania, The African-American Genealogy Group of Philadelphia, and AAHGS-New Jersey. It is our chance to network with fellow family historians in order to exchange ideas and programs. I hope all of you will come out to welcome our visitors and to hear the two attorneys who will speak to us about the legal ramifications of family and local history research. You will learn some important information which will be helpful to know as you become increasingly involved in your research.

Special thanks to Walter Tanksley who presented a great program on videotaping oral interviews at our April meeting.

Our participation at the Sussex County Heritage Day was successful. My thanks to Betty Johnson and Lou Bowser for joining me at our table on Saturday, April 22, 1995.

Our election process has begun for the next 2-year term.

By now all paid-up members have received their nomination forms. Please adhere to the instructions and deadline therein.

The Afro-American Historical Society Museum will have its annual luncheon on May 20, 1995, at the Hi-Hat Caterers, 180 West - 54th Street, Bayonne, N. J. See page 4 herein or call the Museum at (201) 547-5262 for further details.

-Lloyd E. Washington,  
President

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TASK FORCE ON NEW JERSEY  
HISTORY ESTABLISHED

A 27-member Task Force on History was established by Gov. Christine Whitman in December 1994 to promote an understanding and appreciation of New Jersey history. The task force is currently involved in the study of:

Public and private historical resources of the state.

State-owned historic sites, structures and facilities, museums, libraries and archives.

The manner in which New Jersey history education, historical museums and other historical programs are funded by the state.

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# Bulletin Board

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Catalog 1995 of the DuBois Book Center, Inc., P. O. Box 776, Englewood, N. J. 07631-0776, listing 927 out-of-print, scarce and rare books, and other interesting items, is now available. The Center also buys books. Contact it if you have books to sell (201) 567-3611.

Update, Vol. 1, Number 6, Newsletter of the African Burial Ground & Five Points Archaeological Projects, contains an interesting lead article entitled "African Religions in America" by Karen McKoy. For a copy, contact: African Burial Ground (OPEI), 6 World Trade Center, Room 239, New York, N. Y. 10048, (212) 432-5707.

Lucius A. Bowser, NJ-AAHGS member, has brought to our attention an article from The New York Times, Metro section, Friday, April 7, 1995 (pg B1), entitled "A Park's Black Village," which describes the settlement of Seneca Village inhabited by working-class Blacks. In 1857 the community was demolished to make way for the development of Central Park. Junior high students from Intermediate School 49 in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn are currently studying original documents and newspapers concerning the settlement at the New York Historical Society. Seneca Village extended from 79th to 86th street and from what is now Seventh Avenue to today's Central Park West.

Rutgers University History Internship Program provides three course credits. It accommodates 12 to 15 students and offers a choice of internships at about 80 agencies. The work varies with the site. Students may process manuscript collections, conduct tours at historic sites, work with library collections, design brochures, work on educational programs, or do historical research.

To be eligible, students must be junior or senior history majors. Interns must attend general program meetings twice a semester and turn in interim and final reports. The host agency must provide professional supervision, arrange an observation session by the department adviser, and submit a written evaluation of the student's performance.

For information contact the Department of History, Van Dyck Hall, P.O. Box 5059, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, 08903-5059.

(From New Jersey Historical Commission Newsletter, Vol. 24, Number 6, (Whole Number 235) March 1995).

To keep abreast of New Jersey Historical Commission grants and prizes for historical research, subscribe to the New Jersey Historical Commission Newsletter, Dept. of State, CN 305, Trenton, N.J. 08625-0305. \$10.00 for ten issues. Make check payable to Treasurer, State of New Jersey.

*The Westfield Leader*

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Thursday, April 20, 1995

## *Town Negro History Club Address Topic in Capital*

Mrs. Patricia Barrett will be speaking on the "Westfield Negro History Club: 1933-1981" at the 17th Annual Conference of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Inc. on Thursday, April 27, at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

The club was organized on February 9, 1933 when Calvin Thompson, Miss Ruth Young, Mrs. Betty Gillis, Miss Mamie Cox and Miss Ruth

stage public programs and exhibits in churches and schools in Westfield and surrounding towns and communities in New Jersey.

Their highest goals were to introduce black history into the public schools in New Jersey, to serve the community, to improve race relations, and to inform the people about the Negro and his contributions to America.

Each year, during Negro History Month, the club sponsored several annual black history programs around the state. They also awarded scholarships to deserving high school graduates every June.

To prepare for her speech in Washington, Mrs. Barrett, who became a member in 1964, interviewed the following Past Presidents and historians: Ernest Powell, Billy Powell, Ernest Talbot, Mrs. Hattie Harris, Mrs. Alice Lane and Mrs. Gladys Edwards. Two outstanding fund raisers were Mrs. Margie Horton and Mrs. Evelyn Reed, who were in charge of the African Queen Debutante Ball in 1968.

Mrs. Barrett is a graduate of Kean College, Seton Hall University and has done post-graduate work in the field of educational research at the University of Arizona.

Retired after teaching 43 years in the Newark Public School System, she spends her time writing and has just completed her first novel.

She is the wife of Theodore Barrett, a retired teacher, the mother of Dr. Theodore Barrett, Jr. and Mrs. Nellian Barrett-McKenzie.



Mrs. Patricia Barrett

Robinson agreed to study their heritage.

Using Carter G. Woodson's *Journals of Negro History* and other collections of books by and about Negroes and their accomplishments, they began to conduct group discussions,

TASK FORCE ON NEW JERSEY  
HISTORY ESTABLISHED  
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The relationship between tourism, historical resources and history education.

The current and potential public interest in New Jersey history education and programs.

Methods for coordinating the efforts of various public and private entities interested in New Jersey history education.

The manner in which New Jersey history is taught in public schools.

The academic, research, financial and other needs of professional and avocational historians and others engaged in scholarly research and publication on New Jersey history.

The preservation, availability and display of historical collections, exhibits and records in the state by government entities, historical societies, museums, libraries and archives.

The task force was provided with funding and charged with reporting its findings and conclusions within 18 months. (The Star-Ledger (N. J.), Saturday, December 3, 1994, p. 24.

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The following is from a recent issue of Family Historian News

produced by Stephen Conte:

"THE APRIL PRODUCTION

"The popularity of genealogy really surfaced in the 1970's with the publication and eventual television production of ALEX HALEY'S ROOTS. Not only did this epic inspire Afro-Americans to trace their roots, but it also opened the door to other ethnic groups. A look at the FAMILY HISTORIAN productions will attest to this.

"One of those inspired by the work of Alex Haley is genealogist, historian, and civic leader, Glenn D. Cunningham. Glenn is FAMILY HISTORIAN's guest for its new production of AFRO-AMERICAN GENEALOGY (show #21). A producer in his own right, Glenn wrote and directed a one-hour video entitled, HIDDEN FOOTPRINTS: THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN JERSEY CITY. Glenn is also a founder of the New Jersey Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society and a trustee of the Afro-American Museum in Jersey City, New Jersey.

"On FAMILY HISTORIAN, Glenn gives viewers a concise look on how to successfully trace an Afro-American genealogy. He even displays a picture of the actual plantation in Virginia where his ancestors lived.

"AFRO-AMERICAN GENEALOGY is a beautiful production. The set is decorated with colorful  
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Family Historian News

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Kenyan batiks and exotic woodcarvings. The show opens with an Afro-American tune, "Message to Our Ancestors." Very appropriate.

"I have dedicated this production to JEAN SAMPSON SCOTT (1925-1990), a true pioneer in the science of Afro-American genealogy."

(Note: This videotape 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. Always adjust tracking on VCR when playing new tapes).

Bessie Coleman, the nation's first Black woman aviator, is being honored in the latest issue of the Black Heritage stamp series of the United States Postal Service.

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Farmers Journal, Newton, N. J.  
November 1, 1797 -

3 Dollars Reward

Ran away from the subscriber, on Wednesday, the 4th instant, a black Negro, named Peet, about 19 years of age. A thick, fat fellow, had on when he went away a grey handspun coat and overalls, a new flowered jacket-- whoever will take up said Negro and return him to the subscriber or confine him in any jail shall have the above reward & all reasonable charges.

Newton NJ Peter Uptegrove  
Oct. 11, 1797.

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REMINDERS

Saturday, May 13, 1995 -  
NJ-AAHGS WILL HOST A MEETING OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGY GROUPS. Speakers will discuss legal ramifications of family and local history research. NJ-AAHGS members requested to come out and greet guests from N.Y., Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Family Reunion information needed for NJ-AAHGS June 1995 newsletter. Call Betty Johnson (201) 875-4802, or drop her a line: 124 Mt. Salem Rd., Wantage, N. J. 07461-3725. This and other news needed by May 15, 1995.

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