
AAHGS

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

Volume 8, Number 9

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1995

Meeting

NJ-AAHGS will meet Saturday, NOVEMBER 4, 1995, at 12 Noon at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N. J. (2nd fl.)

NOTE THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD THE FIRST SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER, RATHER THAN OUR REGULAR SECOND SATURDAY.

10:30 A.M. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will meet.

12 Noon - Bag Lunch. Beverage will be provided.

MEMBER SHARING - Bring your family history charts. Participate in a round table discussion of resources that have been most helpful to you in researching your family history.

Others who are working on local history research are encouraged to likewise participate and share information about your progress.

This will be a good time for beginners to join us. If you have not been able to attend a Chapter meeting, come and network with us.

This is an open meeting. Everyone invited. Bring family and friends.

NOTE: The Greenville Library closes from 1 to 2 p.m. for lunch hour. If the front door is locked when you arrive, please call the Museum from the telephone in front of the building (547-5262). Someone will come down and admit you.

Announcing

November 20, 1995 - Audelco, Inc. (Audience Development Committee, Inc.) will hold its 23rd Annual Black Theater Awards Ceremony at Aaron Davis Hall, 135th Street and Convent Avenue, New York City.

JANICE JENKINS, NJ-AAHGS member and Past Recording Secretary, has been nominated for the Hadley Players' production of "In Pursuit of Justice," in which Miss Jenkins does a one-person performance of Ida B. Wells.

A reception at 7 p.m. will be followed by the program and presentations beginning at 8 p.m.

For ticket information, call (212) 368-6906.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I want to thank each and every member for their support in nominating me as the Chapter President for 1995-1997. My goal is to continue the successful leadership demonstrated by our immediate past Presidents, Lloyd Washington and Betty Johnson.

This is a membership society, and I urge everyone to participate in its programs and as volunteers for committees.

It is my hope that at least one or two members will publish their family research during my term. It is more important to have others learn of your research, then to have it hidden on paper in your files.

LUCIUS A. BOWSER,
President

(JANICE JENKINS NOMINATED -
Continued from Page One)

Well-known actors who have received Audelco Awards include Morgan Freeman and Denzel Washington.

All of us in NJ-AAHGS are proud of Janice and her theatrical talent. She will have our vote on November 20th!

GENEALOGICAL CERTIFICATION

We receive frequent

inquiries about Genealogical Certification. For information about Who? What? Why? How?, write to:

Board for Certification of
Genealogists
Post Office Box 5816
Falmouth, Va. 22403-5816

The information you receive will describe six categories of Certification:

Certified Genealogical Record
Searcher (C.G.R.S.)

Certified American Lineage
Specialist (C.A.L.S.)

Certified American Indian
Lineage Specialist,
(C.A.I.L.S.)

Certified Genealogist (C.G.)

Certified Genealogical Lecturer
(C.G.L.)

Certified Genealogical
Instructor (C.G.I.)

Whether or not you choose to become a certified genealogist is a personal choice and is not a requirement for doing family research. However, individuals who may wish to do research for others, publish, or teach genealogy courses, are encouraged to obtain their certification in the area, or areas, of their interest and/or specialty.

NOVEMBER 23, 1995, is
THANKSGIVING DAY! Take
advantage of family wherever
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Bulletin Board

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Saturday, November 4, 1995 -
The New Jersey Historical Society Associates will meet at 9:30 am for refreshments and 10:00 for a program featuring speaker, Dr. George Sellmer, Zoology Professor, Rutgers University, who will discuss "The Morris Canal: Then and Now." Registration limited. Register early. Members \$15; non-members \$18. For further information call Bill Manty at (201) 483-3939. The program will be held at the New Jersey Historical Society, 230 Broadway, Newark, N.J.

Thursday, November 9, 1995 -
6-8 pm, Robert Treat Hotel, 50 Park Place, Newark, N.J.; Black Women Writers Champagne Book Parties featuring Susan L. Taylor of Essence Magazine, who will discuss her new book In Her Spirit - Lessons in Living. \$12.50 reservation. For further information call (201) 733-3748.

Wednesday, November 15, 1995
2 - 4 pm, The New Jersey Historical Society presents Caribbean Folk Arts Demonstration Workshop Series for Adults. Light refreshments. Free Admission. Reservations suggested (201) 483-3939. Program will be held at The New Jersey Historical Society, 230 Broadway, Newark, N. J.

November 18, 1995, through

February 25, 1996, Exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York on the life of Charles (Cookie) Cook who died in 1991. The exhibit will be entitled "Cookie's Harlem," and feature his style of tap dancing combined with acrobatics and comedy. Artifacts include his tap shoes, hats and playbills, A 37-minute videotape of his performances will be shown. The museum is located at Fifth Avenue and 103rd Street, New York City. For information call (212) 534-1672.

The Newark Public Library, 5 Washington Street, Newark, N. J. has a genealogy collection which includes the United States Census for New Jersey 1830 - 1920, the New Jersey Census (1855-1915), Newark and other New Jersey City Directories. It also holds a massive New Jersey picture collection with illustrations that date back to the Civil War. (The Second Century Newsletter of the Newark Public Library, Vol. 6, No. 3, Summer 1995, pg 2.

Inquire at your local Post Office for the October, November, December 1995 publication of Stamps etc, Special Holiday Catalog. It contains Holiday commemoratives and gift items, a new edition of guide to stamps, and provides the last chance for collectors to obtain 29-cent stamps.

BLACK FIRSTS

(Compiled by Lucius A. Bowser)

1. Who was nominated as the first Black Chief Marshal of New Jersey?
2. Who is the first Black woman Chief of Police of Atlanta, Georgia?
3. Who is the first Black woman comptroller in Baltimore, Maryland?
4. Who was the first Black State Trooper on the South Carolina Highway Patrol?
5. Who was the first Black Chief of the New Jersey Department of Health's Drug Control Program?
6. Who is the first Black woman elected President of the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers?
7. Who is the first Black woman named Chairperson of the American Chemical Society, Chicago Chapter?
8. Who was the first Black to officiate at a Super Bowl game?
9. Who was the first Black Home Economics Teacher in New York City?
10. Who was the first Black Dentist in East Orange, New Jersey?

(SEE ANSWERS - PAGE SIX)

MY COUNTY HALL OF RECORD

(By Elizabeth Peale Johnson)

Newton, New Jersey, is the county seat of Sussex County in which I live. This is a rural area in which many old buildings have been preserved and given historic designations.

The Hall of Records is in the Town of Newton, surrounded by other county government offices. This three-story red brick building was built in 1810 and is reminiscent of an era in which there were no elevators, copy machines or other modern conveniences.

Having read in our local newspaper prior to making a visit to the Hall of Records, that there was a need to expand to accomodate growth in services, I was prepared for the cramped quarters to which I was directed when I arrived. The "vault" on the basement level, about eleven feet by seven feet, was a musty, windowless room, pervaded by motionless air. The relic of a copy machine seemed too ancient for the line of those patiently waiting to use it.

However, the discomfort failed to dampen the enthusiasm I felt when I found two other individuals going through two files boxes of original marriage entry records dating from 1795, neatly arranged in manila folders in chronological order. These boxes of marriage records are on the floor in a corner of the vault and are (Continued - Page Six)



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FAMILY HISTORIAN
VIDEOCASSETTES
AVAILABLE

We take this opportunity of thanking the outgoing officers for the time, energy and dedication which they devoted to the New Jersey Chapter, AAHGS, during the past years:

LLOYD E. WASHINGTON served as President for the 1993-1995 term.

ODELL WASHINGTON served six years as Treasurer.

Both Lloyd and Odell will be devoting more time to their personal family research in the year ahead and attend Chapter meetings whenever they are in town. Odell will work with the Jersey Heritage editorial board on the next journal.

JANICE JENKINS served five years as Recording Secretary. Janice plans to work on the editorial board of the Chapter's journal, Jersey Heritage. As in the past, her theatrical appearances will keep her very busy.

ALL OF THE ABOVE OFFICERS DEMONSTRATED LOYALTY TO THE CHAPTER ABOVE SELF. THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP!

REMINDER

Next NJ AAHGS Chapter meeting will be held

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

Following is a listing of videocassettes available from Stephen Conte, P. O. Box 962, West Caldwell, N.J. 07007. These videocassettes are especially helpful to family historians who have limited time available due to employment and other responsibilities. They can be ordered by making check payable to Stephen Conte in the amount of \$20.00 each (includes postage and handling):

- #1 Beginning Genealogy
 - #2 New Jersey State Archives
 - #3 Using Local Sources
 - #4 Census Records
 - #5 Staten Island Sources
 - #6 Mayflower Families
 - #7 The Family History Center
 - #8 Westchester Co. (NY) Sources
 - #9 Philadelphia Sources
 - 10 Military Records
 - 12 Warren Co. (NJ) Sources
 - 13 English Genealogy
 - 14 Scottish Genealogy
 - 15 A Visit to Ellis Island
 - 16 Preserving Old Documents
 - 18 Gloucester Co. (NJ) Sources
 - 19 Salem Co. (NJ) Sources
 - 20 Dutch Genealogy
 - 21 Afro-American Genealogy
 - 22 Somerset Co. (NJ) Sources
 - 23 Lincoln's New Jersey Roots
 - 24 Lincoln's Pennsylvania Roots
 - 25 Italian Genealogy
 - 26 Hudson Co. (NJ) Sources
 - 27 Morris Co. (NJ) Sources
 - 28 Sussex Co. (NJ) Sources
 - 29 Union Co. (NJ) Sources
 - 30 Methodist Church Records
 - 32 Polish Genealogy
 - 33 Tracing Historic Houses
- (Continued - Page Seven)

November 23, 1995 -
Thanksgiving Day - Continued
from Page Two:

it congregates and gather information for your research. Whenever our President, Lucius A. Bowser, is planning to have a holiday dinner or party at his home or at another's home, he arms himself with a supply of 3 x 5 cards and hands them out to be filled in with information he is seeking. This is a painless method of obtaining information without the necessity of correspondence or telephoning these relatives.

As we approach the holidays - be prepared on such occasions! They may present a golden opportunity that only appears at holiday functions, weddings and funerals!

ANSWERS TO BLACK FIRSTS -
(Continued from Page Four):

1. Glenn D. Cunningham, Vice-President of NJ-AAHGS.
2. Beverly Howard
3. Joan Pratt
4. Israel Brooks, Jr., now a U.S. Marshall.
5. Lucius A. Bowser
6. Dr. Marie McDemmond
7. Dr. Cherlyn Bradley
8. Leo Miles, Athletic Director, Howard University.

9. Dr. "Bessie" Delaney
10. Mabel Robinson, D.D.S.

MY COUNTY HALL OF RECORDS -
(Continued from Page Four):

accessible to anyone who discovers them. These records date from 1795 through 1848. The marriages were recorded in large, heavy books: Book A - 1795 - 1848; and Book B - for the recording of later marriages - 1854 - 1878.

My most important find of this visit was a list of "Colored Marriages," on a separate sheet of paper slipped into the back of Book A, with dates of marriages performed from 1801 to 1849. This was the type of information I was gathering for a local history about the lives of Blacks in early Sussex County.

In addition to marriage records, I perused the shelves and found many other types of records, including immigration records which showed the flow of European immigrants to work in the zinc mines in the County.

As you can imagine, I made many trips to the Sussex County Hall of Records following this first visit. I found that the Sussex County Clerk and the Sussex County Surrogate were "user friendly," providing information sheets by each office listing services to genealogists.

FAMILY HISTORIAN VIDEOCASSETTES
AVAILABLE- (Continued from Page
Five)

- 34 Quaker Genealogy
- 35 Mennonite Genealogy
- 36 Schwenkfelder Genealogy
- 37 Waldensian Genealogy
- 38 Jamaican Genealogy
- 39 Estonian Genealogy
- 40 Cuban Genealogy
- 41 Exploring Old Gravesites
- 42 Restoring Old Photographs
- 43 Catholic Church Records
- 44 Portuguese Genealogy
- 45 Native American Genealogy
- 46 The Professional Genealogist
- 47 Greek Genealogy
- 48 Albanian Genealogy
- 49 Genetics and Genealogy
- 50 Hungarian Genealogy
- 51 Turkish Genealogy

(NOTE: ALWAYS ADJUST TRACKING
ON VCR WHEN PLAYING NEW TAPES)

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

It is not too early to do
your gift shopping for Kwanzaa
and Christmas. Do it now and
avoid the rush. Genealogical
books and puzzles are
available. NJ-AAHGS Beginners'
Kits will also be available at
the November 4th meeting at a
nominal cost.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! IF YOU CAN
HELP, CALL THE NJ-AAHGS
PRESIDENT, LUCIUS A. BOWSER,
ASAP, (201) 763-5892.**

NJ-AAHGS DIRECTOR OF
OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

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- Janice Jenkins
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- Arnold Brown
- Billy Pruitt
- Odell Washington
- Elizabeth Peale Johnson

KINDLY FORWARD ALL NEWS FOR THE
NJ-AAHGS NEWSLETTER TO:
ELIZABETH PEALE JOHNSON, 124
MT. SALEM ROAD, WANTAGE, N. J.
07461-3725, or CALL IT IN,
(201) 875-4802, BEFORE DECEMBER
3RD. THANK YOU.