

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

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, Number 8

October 1990

FREE

MEMBERS, FAMILIES, FRIENDS, PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS
AND THE PUBLIC

FREE

Are Invited to Attend

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING,
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
FAMILY HISTORY EXHIBIT
and

TOUR OF THE
AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

SATURDAY, October 13, 1990 at 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N.J.
(2nd fl., Greenville Library Building)

9:00 am REGISTRATION Odell Washington, Registrar
(Coffee, Juice and Donuts will be available)

10:00 am WELCOME AND BRIEF HISTORY OF NJ-AAHGS -
Theodore Brunson, Vice-President, NJ-AAHGS, and
Director, Afro-American Historical Society Museum

DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Lucius A. Bowser, Membership Chairman, NJ-AAHGS

10:30 am GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

"What is Genealogy?" - Introduction to Workshop,
Elizabeth Peale Johnson, NJ-AAHGS President, and
Ellen Thorne Morris, Author and NJ-AAHGS Member.

"Facilities for Genealogy Research in the Tri-State Area" -
Lloyd E. Washington, NJ-AAHGS Program Committee and
Liaison Between NJ and NY AAHGS Chapters.

"Using U.S. Census Records in Genealogical Research" -
Glenn D. Cunningham, NJ-AAHGS Program Chairman.

"Appropriate Forms for Recording Research Findings"-
Anna Durham, NJ-AAHGS Member, and Ellen Thorne Morris.

12:15 pm QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

12:30 p.m. BROWN BAG LUNCH - Beverage will be provided

1:00 pm TOUR OF FAMILY HISTORY EXHIBIT and AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM

FREE

FREE

FREE

(FOR INFORMATION RE: REGISTRATION CALL THE MUSEUM -

(201)547-5262

JEAN SAMPSON SCOTT
January 31, 1925-September 2, 1990

Obituary

Jean Sampson Scott passed away on Sunday, September 2, 1990 at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx at 9:00 p.m.

Jean Sampson Scott, Ohio born, whose early education took place in Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky, took her college degree at Hampton Institute in Virginia and her Masters of Arts at Teachers College of Columbia University in New York City.

Jean Sampson Scott was a teacher and genealogist who taught, lectured, wrote and devoted her time to getting others to share the joy of reconstructing their own family histories. She has traced her own family history back to the early 1600's. She was a founding member and former president of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society based in Washington, D.C. She wrote numerous genealogical articles for the Society's quarterly *Journal of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society* and for other genealogical periodicals as well. Mrs. Scott authored *Beginning an Afro-American Genealogical Pursuit*, one of the few handbooks for those interested in the specific research of this field, a guide for beginners and experienced genealogists alike. As a member of the Schomburg Corporation, she was the founder of the Genealogy and Family History Committee. Serving as chair-person, she helped organize the vast information the Schomburg has to offer in helping families trace their histories.

She lived in both Japan and Europe with her U.S. Army Chaplain husband and her family. In Japan she served as a recreation leader and in Europe she taught in the dependent schools. She retired from public school education in Larchmont, New York and then taught college essay writing. She made her home in Mt. Vernon, New York. She was a wife, a mother and a grandmother.

She is survived by: her husband, Professor Osborne E. Scott, Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Brooklyn and Professor Emeritus City College of New York, also two sons, Oz Scott of California, a film, TV and theater director and Michael Scott of Maine, a surveying engineer who is currently working as a computer consultant at the University of Maine; her daughter-in-law, Lynne Scott and three grandchildren, Ozzie, Brittany and Robert; her brother Ted Sampson, Jr. of Yellow Springs, Ohio; sisters, Gloria Houston of Dover, Delaware and Margaret Ann Wright of Cincinnati, Ohio; and a host of friends and relatives who will miss her very much.

She was an inspiration for all those who knew her, always giving unselfishly of her time and knowledge to those who were developing their own ideas.

In remembrance of Jean Sampson Scott, the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society is establishing an Endowment in her name for the purpose of promoting a better understanding of our history among young people. Donations will be accepted at the October 13, 1990 meeting of the New Jersey Chapter AAHGS. Jean was instrumental in the formation of the New Jersey Chapter. We want to take this opportunity of honoring her, as she guided our organization in its infancy.

"Computers and Genealogy" presented by Barbara Clawson, Thursday, May 3, 1990.

Notes taken at the May 1990 AAHGS Conference by Odell Washington, NJAAHGS Treasurer and Finance Chairperson, who attended the conference in Washington, D. C.:-

All persons who are involved in genealogy are aware of the huge amount of paper work that is generated. How does one cope? A computer may be the answer.

The cost to set up a computer will be about \$2500.00. You will need the following equipment:

1. An AT class computer (the best power wise)
2. A monitor (does not have to be in color)
3. A word processor (similar to a typewriter keyboard)
4. A printer (a wide carriage is suggested)
5. A floppy disk drive 5¼ inches or
6. A hard disk drive 3½ inches

(All of the above called Hardware)

7. No less than 640K memory capacity

How do you make use of all of this equipment once obtained? First you buy an operating system that allows you to communicate with the computer and its various devices- monitor, keyboard etc. M S DOS is a popular operating system. The letters stand for Microsoft Disk Operating System. Second, you buy a program (software) that meets your genealogy needs. There are three top programs that can be obtained. They are Roots III, Family Roots, and the Personal Ancestry File put out by the Family History Centers of the Mormon Church. The first two are very expensive, about \$250.00. The Mormon's is \$35.00 and is adequate for most genealogy needs.

What can the computer do to ease your information gathering? You can use your computer to store and file your information in an orderly manner so that it can be retrieved and printed out when you need it. Your file can be updated and cross referenced any way that you want it to be.

Computer use does not have to be restricted to genealogy. There are programs for organizing your finances and taxes and setting up name and address files. With word processing, you can type reports, letters, documents and labels for mailing cards and bills.

Do not be afraid of computers. They can only do what you tell them to do.

DIRECTORY, NJAAHGS OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

Elizabeth Peale Johnson, Prs. (201)875-4802	Glenn D. Cunningham, Program Chr (201)433-3487
Theodore Brunson, V. Pres. (201)547-5262	Lucius A. Bowser, Membership &
Janice Jenkins, Secy. (201)451-4940	Publicity Chr. (201)763-5892
Odell Washington, Treas. &	Arnold E. Brown, By-Laws (201)567-4628
Finance Chr. (201)763-4949	Lloyd E. Washington, Liaison,
Theresa L. Thomas, Coordinator,	NY & NJ Chapters AAHGS (201)763-4949
ASsist. to New Genealogists (201)460-4355	

PLEASE FORWARD ALL NEWS BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH TO: Elizabeth Peale Johnson,
R. D. 1, Box 638, Sussex, N.J. (201) 875-4802.

PRUITT FAMILY REUNION

By Billy M. Pruitt

The Charlotte, North Carolina, Chapter hosted this year's annual Pruitt Family Reunion, August 31 through September 2, 1990, in Atlanta, Georgia. The three-day Labor Day activities were attended by one hundred and fifty family members from eleven states. The theme for this year's reunion was "A New Decade - A Challenge to Press On."

From day one the Hospitality Room was the center of activities where we met new and old relatives and friends, caught up on the latest news, and became involved in hand shaking, hugs and kissing. The atmosphere during registration set the tone throughout the reunion.

Family members visited the Underground, the Martin Luther King Memorial, Morris Brown College, Spellman College, Six Flags Over Georgia and Stone Mountain. They also went on shopping sprees and took in other sights in and around Atlanta.

The Saturday night banquet Master of Ceremonies was Kevin Ligon. He challenged the young men and women to talk to their elders and get the tools of history that will help them survive into the twenty-first century.

The Sunday morning candlelight service message was delivered by Rev. Harry Pruitt, which was followed by the lighting of candles. The oldest member of the family, Daisy Pruitt Ligon, passed a candle to the youngest member, Donte Pruitt. Both went from table to table lighting candles to the singing of "Shine on Me."

Alice Ligon was the Mistress of Ceremonies for Sunday Dinner. Jerredith Shearin's message was "A Challenge to Press On." After the roll call by Billy Mack Pruitt, the family feasted on southern fried chicken, roast beef, potato salad, rice, string beans, pies, cakes, custard and beverages.

Family members purchased hand towels which carried the family shield.

The official Pruitt Family Reunion was over when the circle of prayer was formed and a benediction was given by Rev. Harry Pruitt.

The Greenville, South Carolina, Chapter will host the 1991 Pruitt Family Reunion for which they have been making preparations since 1989.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, October 7, 1990 - 12 Noon - 5 p.m., FAMILY HISTORY FAIR at New York University's Loeb Student Center, Washington Square South, at LaGuardia Pl., Manhattan, FREE ADMISSION. For further info. call (212) 415-5547.

Saturday, October 20, 1990 - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, A seminar sponsored by the Genealogy Club of the New Jersey Historical Society, at 230 Broadway, Newark, N.J. 07104, \$12.00 NJHS Members; \$15.00 Non-Members. (Registration deadline Oct. 14, 1990.) A.M. "A Mixture of Nations: Immigration to New Netherlands and Colonial New York. P.M. "From the Golden Door to the Urban Frontier: Tracking 19th Century Immigrant Families in American Cities." Bring own lunch. Dessert and Beverage provided.

Saturday, October 27, 1990, - Part II, A Tour of Black Historic Sites in Jersey City, will be conducted by Theodore Brunson, Director, Afro-American Historical Society Museum. Meet at the Museum at 9:15 am. Everyone welcome. Cost of \$15.00 includes lunch. For information and reservations contact the Museum at (201) 547-5262. This tour will be sponsored under a program developed by the Museum in conjunction with the African/Afro-American Studies Program of Jersey City State College through a grant from the N.J. Comm. for the Humanities, and the State Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Museum is located at 1841 Kennedy Blvd., 2nd fl., Greenville Library, Jersey City, N.J. 07305.

RE-OPENING

**Announcing the re-opening
of the Afro-American
Historical Society
Museum.**



**After
three months
of renovations
the Afro-American
Historical Society
Museum is re-opening.
Come join us at 2:00 PM
Sunday October, 28th 1990.**

**Afro-American Historical Society Museum
1841 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, New Jersey 07305 • (201) 547-5262**