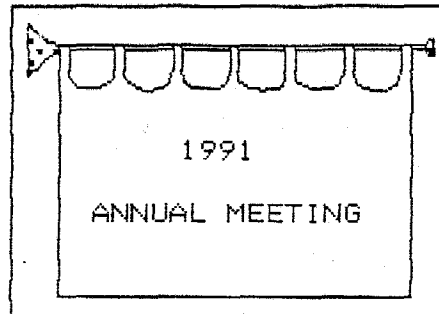


New Jersey Chapter
AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

V. 3, Number 7

NEWSLETTER

October, 1991



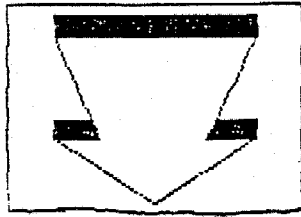
The Second Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Chapter, Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., will be held Saturday, October 12, 1991, at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, New Jersey (2nd floor, Greenville Library).

AGENDA

- 10:30 am - Annual Report of the New Jersey Chapter AAHGS
- 11:00 am - Installation of Officers for 1991-1993 Term
- 11:30 am - Refreshments and Tour of the Afro-American Historical Society Museum
- 12:30 pm - GUEST SPEAKER:-
 - * DR. CLEMENT ALEXANDER PRICE, Associate Professor of History at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark Campus, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in American and Afro-American history. Dr. Price is the author of numerous publications that explore Afro-American history and race relations in New Jersey. He serves on many boards and has been the recipient of numerous awards for academic and community service.

-AAHGS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS PLEASE NOTE:- Kindly call the Afro-American Historical Society Museum to reserve a seat and to facilitate planning for refreshments (Monday - Friday between 10 am and Noon before October 7th, (201) 7-5262. Everyone welcome. Admission free.

R. PRICE is the 1992 Henry J. Browne Outstanding Teacher of the Year for Rutgers-Newark and the recipient of the Warren I. Susman Award for Excellence in Teaching at Rutgers University.



SPECIAL NOTICES TO NJ-AAHGS MEMBERS

PLEASE TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO JOIN US ON OCTOBER 12, 1991 FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND HEAR DR. CLEMENT A. PRICE, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY. PROFESSOR PRICE WILL BE SPEAKING ON "BLACKS IN NEW JERSEY" AS PART OF OUR SECOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. PLEASE COME EARLY TO HELP SET UP FOR THIS SPECIAL DAY.

Family History Posters - Last year our members prepared family history posters or display on our First Anniversary as a Chapter. This year, in preparation for our Second Anniversary Annual Meeting, we encourage our members to update our posters, or design another one on another aspect of the life of family members. One poster per member due at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum on Monday, October 7th. Remember to include dates of events depicted in your poster and names of persons in any photos you use. Please contact Theodore Brunson at the Museum if you have any questions about the posters (201) 547-5262. (Posters about 20" x 30")

Annual Meeting Dessert Table- All male members of NJ-AAHGS are requested to provide dessert for the Annual Meeting Celebration. There will be other refreshments in addition to the Dessert Table.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT AT THE FAMILY HISTORY FAIR OCTOBER 13, 1991, 12 NOON TO 5:00 PM, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY LOEB CENTER, LOCATED AT WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH AT LAGUARDIA PLACE, NEW YORK CITY. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL LLOYD WASHINGTON, (201) 763-4949.

REPORT OF NJ-AAHGS ELECTION OF OFFICERS
FOR THE TERM OCTOBER 1991-OCTOBER 1993

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Elizabeth Peale Johnson
Vice-President	Theodore Brunson
Treasurer	Odell Washington
Secretary	Janice Jenkins

The nominations and election were conducted in accordance with the By-Laws, Article VIII, NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.
ELECTION COMMITTEE: CARLOS R. EDWARDS, CHAIRMAN; LISA CRAWLEY AND AMANDA EDWARDS.

NOTE: -Thanks to Carlos, Lisa and Amanda for the many hours required in canvassing the membership, preparing a slate, mailing ballots and tabulating the election results which were reported on September 14, 1991, during the genealogy workshop program. Installation of officers will take place Saturday, October 12, 1991, at the Annual Meeting.

WELCOME - NEW MEMBER - Sidney C. Sneed, 861 South 18th St., Newark, N.J. 07108.

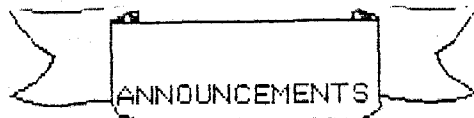
TERESA L. THOMAS, Coordinator of Assistance to New Genealogists, encourages all new members who have not heard from her to telephone her for the purpose of receiving the Starter Packet of information tailored to their needs: H - (201) 568-3957; W - (201) 460-4368.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEADERS OF THE GENEALOGY WORKSHOP HELD SEPTEMBER 14-15, 1991 - Coordinator Lloyd E. Washington served as program facilitator, prepared the registration kits which were distributed, and led a session on Census Research. Other sessions were led by Dick Dickenson, How to Begin; Theresa L. Thomas, Writing for Information; Lucius A. Bowser, Oral History; Betty Johnson, Cemetery Research; and Carlos R. Edwards who moderated the round table summary. Thanks also to Odell Washington who registered the participants, to Theodore Brunson for setting up the meeting space in the Museum, and Mrs. Ethel Martin for arriving early to provide access to the building.

A CATALOG OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN OUT-OF-PRINT, SCARCE AND RARE BOOKS is now available from DuBois Book Center, Inc., P.O. Box 776, Englewood, N.J. 07631, (201) 567-3611. The president is Arnold E. Brown who also serves as By-Laws Chairman of the New Jersey Chapter AAHGS.

BOOK DISCUSSION WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 2, 1991 - 7-9 P.M. AT THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY, 5 Washington St., Newark, N.J. on A RAGE IN HARLEM by Charles Himes.

REACTION to September 1991 NJ-AAHGS Newsletter: Zelma Beard-Young is Secretary/Public Relations Chr of Baltimore AAHGS Chapter (Not Selma).



BOOK NEWS

UNDYING GLORY

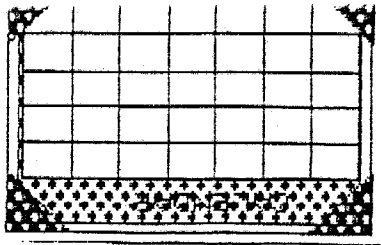
Scholastic Inc. has just published Undying Glory, the story of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment. Written by columnist Clinton Cox, the book begins with the regiment's formation in Massachusetts and traces its active duty at Fort Wagner and beyond. This hard cover edition, which includes historic portraits of the regiment, will be available for purchase at the October NJ-AAHGS meeting for \$14.95 (for further details, contact Lisa Crawley, 1090 Mary Street, Elizabeth, N.J. 07201). Undying Glory will also be available for sale on October 6, 1991, at a memorial program in honor of Col. Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Mass. Regiment which he commanded during the Civil War. The event is co-sponsored by The Friends of Abandoned Cemeteries (R.E. Dickenson, Pres.) and the Unitarian Church of Staten Island (which Col. Shaw's parents and family attended). It is expected that a plaque to Col. Shaw will be dedicated on or adjacent to the former Staten Island home of Col. Shaw, by the present owner, Consolidated Edison. Hopefully, there will be representation by descendants of the 54th, other "colored troops," and possibly of Harriet Tubman. For further information, write R.E. Dickenson, 140 Tysen St., Staten Island, N.Y. 10301. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Moravian Cemetery. Dick Dickenson furnished us with a map of directions to the cemetery. (See Page 9).

THEODORE BRUNSON, Director of the Afro-American Historical Society Museum (in which NJ-AAHGS meets) was interviewed by a New York Times reporter in September which resulted in an article in the Sunday, September 15, 1991, edition entitled "Spontaneous Quilts and Vibrating Instruments." The reporter describes a tour of the museum, gives a history of its development and emphasizes the current exhibit of twelve quilts from the museum's collection of forty quilts.

THEODORE BRUNSON and ARNOLD BROWN, a member of the Bergen County Historical Society, were guest speakers at a meeting of the African-American Historical Society of Rockland County, New York, on Saturday, September 28, 1991. Their topic "Honoring the Ancestors" was accompanied by a video presentation and discussion.

REUNION NEWS - From August 16 - 18, 1991, Lisa Crawley and family attended the 21st Annual JACKSON Family Reunion in Goldsboro, N.C. The three-day event attracts hundreds of relatives who participate in numerous festivities, including a talent/fashion show, church service, fish fry, softball game and reunion barbecue. The Jackson Family proudly traces its roots to the marital union of WALTER and EUNICE JACKSON.

WATCH FOR NEWS IN THE NOVEMBER 1991 NJ-AAHGS NEWSLETTER CONCERNING A VISIT TO THE NEW YORK CITY FAMILY HISTORY CENTER WHICH THE JEAN SAMPSON SCOTT GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER AAHGS CHAPTER WILL SPONSOR IN EARLY NOVEMBER. THIS WILL INCLUDE AN ORIENTATION TO THE USE OF MORMON RECORDS IN FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH.



NJ-AAHGS CALENDAR
1991

September 9 - 12 Noon - Business Session-Plans for 1992.
Mystery auction conducted by Lloyd E. Washington
to benefit Chapter.

September 14 - 12 Noon -Holiday Celebration with a Genealogical Theme.
Refreshment donations from members.
Annual Silent Auction to benefit Chapter
(Members requested to donate auction items).
Celebrating Kwanza - Odell Washington

Meetings are held at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, 1841
Medley Blvd., Jersey City, N.J. 07305, 2nd floor, Greenville Library,
(1) 547-5262).

NJ-AAHGS MEMBERS/ACTIVITIES

Congratulations to GLENN D. CUNNINGHAM on the publication in the Journal of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (Spring and Fall 1990 issue) of his article entitled "The Hidden Lives of Waverly Plantation" in which his research leads to clues about his ancestors. Another publication to which GLENN contributed an article is The Heritage of Blacks in North Carolina, Volume I, 1990, which chronicles the history of the Edwin S. Cunningham (1852-1923) family. GLENN may be contacted regarding the availability of these publications at 230 Bergen Avenue, Jersey City, N.J. 07305 (201) 433-3487.

As a result of an article published in the New Brunswick, N.J. Home News, titled "History Hidden in Graveyard", LUCIUS D. BOWSER made a trip to Jersey City, N.J. to visit the hillside cemetery, known as Ambury Hill, where soldiers who fought during the Civil War are buried. The newspaper mentions a church on the property around 1840 burned down; however, the "graveyard remains hidden in the tall grass, visited every year by a few who know their way around the back roads here." (Home News, May 30, 1991)

GLENN D. CUNNINGHAM spoke at a seminar for teachers sponsored by the Jersey City Board of Education on June 23, 1991, on ways in which family history and local history can be used to integrate multiculturalism into every day teaching methods.

ICE JENKINS attended the 1991 National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, North Carolina August 5th through August 10th, 1991. The festival, which is held every other year, consists of productions from Black theatre companies across the United States and workshops on every aspect of theatre from producing to make-up. Celebrities honored or mentioned - Page Six)

ANICE JENKINS (Continued from Page Five)

Reading workshops included Denzel Washington, Juanita Moore, Whitman Mayo, Essie Davis and Ruby Dee, Freda Payne, Glynn Turman, Beah Richards, Helen Martin, Bill Duke, Phyllis Yvonne Stickney, Joe Seneca and Michael Schultz.

Of special historical interest were the one-person shows on Martin Luther King, Zora Neale Hurston, Paul Robeson and Mary McLeod Bethune, presented by Yolanda King, Elizabeth VanDyke, Avery Brooks and Esther Rolle respectively. These shows are available for touring and any interested parties should contact Larry Leon Hamlin, the Producer/Artistic Director of the Festival at the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, (919) 23-7907 for referral numbers.

WILLA RAWLINS travelled to Rowan County, Salisbury, North Carolina, in August 1991 with other family members for a family reunion. However, while she was there, she decided to spend a few days in the Rowan County library where she discovered records regarding her grandparents and great-grandparents. The account of her discoveries will be related in the November Newsletter. This is a wonderful report from a brand-new, enthusiastic genealogist!

WILLY M. PRUITT reports this year's annual PRUITT Family Reunion was hosted by the Greenville, South Carolina Chapter, August 30 - September 1, 1991. As family members arrived at the Greenville Hilton, there was much joyful greeting. Following registration, they gathered in the hospitality room to catch up with the latest family news. There were many activities for both young and old throughout the day Saturday. During the dinner that evening there was a display of Pruitt Family photographs and a raffle drawing to benefit the Pruitt family scholarship fund. Everyone attended a memorial service delivered by Rev. Dr. Harry Pruitt on Sunday morning. An all-family meeting was followed by an Executive Board meeting. The Sunday dinner, hosted by Waymon Pruitt and Oliver J. Bell, included recognition of the oldest living family members and special awards for educational achievement. The 1992 Pruitt Family Reunion will be hosted Labor Day weekend by the Midwest Chapter in Chicago, Illinois.

LOYD E. WASHINGTON will represent NJ-AAHGS with a genealogy display October 2 and 3, 1991, at Monmouth College, where he will have an opportunity to talk with students who express interest in family research.

BOULTON DICKENSON, NJ-AAHGS member, and native of Greenville, Jersey City, N.J., will take office as the newly appointed official Borough Historian of Staten Island at a ceremony on Thursday, October 3, at 3:00 p.m. The event will take place at the Staten Island Borough Hall across the street from the Ferry Terminal, and will be followed by a reception. "Dick", as he prefers to be called, is the fourth Borough Historian, since the 1898 consolidation of New York City - and the first Afro-American one.

New Jersey AFRO-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL

DEAR PATRON,

The members of the N.J. Afro-American Society are proud to announce the upcoming The Jersey Heritage, in February 1991. Our organization whose members are concerned with The Jersey Heritage seeks to fill the void by providing timely articles on the Afro-American in New Jersey from its' earliest beginnings of the activities of A.A.H.G.S., covering the state, book reviews and much more as we capture the rich treasures

NAME (Individual/Corporation) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

PHONE _____

PATRON \$10 _____

QUARTER PAGE \$50 _____

HALF PAGE \$75 _____

FULL PAGE \$125 _____

*Checks or money orders, payable to NJ-A.A.H.G.S. to Treasurer Odell Washington at meeting, 18 Lindsley Avenue, Maplewood, N.J. 07067

At last, cousins are strangers no more

Man is introduced to his new family

Burlington NC

STEVE HUFFMAN
Times-News

Sept 1, 1991

Had she passed him on the street, Ophelia Chambers said she's pretty sure she'd have recognized Byron Houzz as a relative.

"I've have studied him right hard," Chambers, 85, said of the 79-year-old Houzz. "I'd have thought we'd be so much alike not to have been related somehow."

Houzz said he, too, noticed a family resemblance the moment he laid eyes on Chambers. "She reminds me of my mother," Houzz said. "My mother didn't weigh 100 pounds soaking wet. Ophelia's the same way."

Chambers and Houzz are indeed relatives — cousins in fact — though they'd never met until last Saturday. The story of their reunion includes a few twists.

Houzz's mother, Georganna Chambers, was herself a baby when her parents were killed in an accident. Adopted by an aunt and uncle; Houzz's mother was only 2 or 3 years when she was moved to her home in Halifax, Va., to Illinois. With the move, virtually all family ties were severed. Though he can remember as a child his mother talking about kinsfolk in Virginia, Houzz had no idea who they were or where they lived.

In the early years of his life, that wasn't a particular concern for Houzz, who was raised with a household of siblings.

As he grew older and his parents as well as his brothers and sisters died — of the six children in his family, he's the only one still living — Houzz



Steve Huffman / Times-News

Ophelia Chambers and Byron Houzz met for the first time Saturday in Burlington.

sensed a void in his life.

Filling that void would have been impossible had

it not been for the efforts of Sam Harris, the unofficial historian for the Chambers family, a family that has numerous ties to Burlington. *

Three years ago, Harris, a resident of Jersey City, N.J., began trying to track down Houzz. His leads were few. He knew that Georganna Chambers had married, given birth to several children and had lived somewhere in Illinois. Other than that, his information was virtually nonexistent.

But three years of digging finally paid off. Two weeks ago, he contacted Houzz who lives in Chicago.

Houzz said he was delighted to hear from his long-lost family.

"These are the only relatives I've ever come in contact with," he said.

The contact made, Houzz made fast plans to attend the Chambers family reunion which was held last weekend in Alamance County. The reunion is an annual one, held every Labor Day weekend at different locations. Though the family traces its roots to Halifax, Va., members have branched out up and down much of the East Coast. Several of those family members live in Alamance and Caswell counties.

This past weekend's reunion marked the 27th year for the extravaganza. A picnic held Sunday afternoon in Pleasant Garden capped the activities.

Early last Saturday, Houzz flew from Chicago to Greensboro where Harris met him at the airport. Together, the two drove to Burlington where Houzz and Chambers were introduced for the first time in their lives.

"This is a dream come true for me," Houzz said of his introduction to an assortment of relatives who, until recently, he didn't know existed.

Now that they've finally met, Houzz and Chambers say they've got no plans to ever lose contact again.

"We're going to stay as close as we possibly can," Chambers promised.

QUERY

BORDENTOWN MANUAL TRAINING AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL or "Old Ironsides." Founded in 1886 by Rev. W. A. Rice, A.M.E. (Founder and First Principal, b. Greenville, Jersey City, N.J.), was the only all Black training institution in New Jersey. R. DICKENSON SEEKS INFORMATION ON THE STUDENTS, FACULTY, ALUMNI AND CURRENT LAND OWNERSHIP OF FORMER SCHOOL ON PARNELL ESTATE to produce short history - and possibly an exhibit.

SOME INFORMATION GLEANED:

VALENTINE, WILLIAM R. - Principal of the Manual Training School from 1915 to 1950 (35 years), b. Oct. 1880 in Virginia. His wife, GRACE BOOTH VALENTINE, also b. 1880 in Connecticut.

DORE, T. ARNOLD, b. Oct. 1895 in Conn, was a student there in 1915. His wife, VIOLA TYLER JACKSON, was the daughter of AUGUSTUS TYLER and MARY(BOLLING)JACKSON of Jersey City. He died in Plainfield, N.J.

DORE, HAROLD EARNEST, b. April 1900, brother of ARNOLD. Was also born in Conn. He operated a taxi service in Jersey City and retired to Plainfield, N.J. He was a student at Bordentown in 1900.

DICKENSON, RUFUS HENRY, b. Jan. 1900 in Oklahoma. Married ALICE AUCOLUMS JACKSON, b. Bayonne, N.J., daughter of BOULTON CONOVER WINPENNY and NELLIE (RAMSEY) JACKSON of Jersey City. Issue of two children included RICHARD BOULTON DICKENSON and ERNESTINE ALICE DICKENSON (b.N.Y.C.). R. H. DICKENSON died in Los Angeles, CA. in 1951.

- R. BOULTON DICKENSON
140 Tysen Street
Staten Island, New York 10301

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
Theresa L. Thomas, Coord. Asst. to New Genealogists	460-4355
Lisa Crawley, Journal Editor	(908) 354-1353
Glenn D. Cunningham, Research Proj. Chr. & Prog. Asst.	433-3487
Lloyd E. Washington, Program Chr. & Liaison NY-NJ Chapters AAHGS	763-4949
Lucius A. Bowser, Membership and Publicity Chr.	763-5892
Arnold E. Brown, By-Laws Chr. & Asst. Editor, Journal	567-4628

PLEASE FORWARD ALL ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH TO
ELIZABETH PEALE JOHNSON, 124 Mt. Salem Road, Wantage, N.J. 07461.
(201) 875-4802.