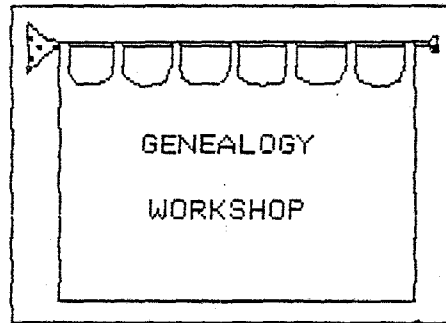


AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

. 3, Number 6

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1991



NJAAGHS WILL GIVE A FREE ONE DAY FAMILY RESEARCH WORKSHOP AT THE

AFRO AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
1841 KENNEDY BLVD, 2ND FLOOR
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY
(GREENVILLE LIBRARY)

DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 1991

TIME: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

WORKSHOP PROGRAM:

HOW TO START
USING CENSUS RECORDS
CEMETERY RESEARCH
HOW & WHERE TO GET HELP

ORAL HISTORY GUIDELINES
HOW TO DO RESEARCH
WRITING FOR INFORMATION

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM TO: AAHGS WORKSHOP, % L. E. WASHINGTON
18 LINDSLEY AVENUE
MAPLEWOOD, NJ 07040

BRING PENCILS AND PADS
COFFEE AND DONUTS WILL BE SERVED AT REGISTRATION
BRING "BROWN BAG" LUNCH - BEVERAGE WILL BE PROVIDED

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 201 763 4949 OR 201 763 5892

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

WE ARE ASKING EACH MEMBER TO HELP BY INVITING ONE OR MORE FRIENDS OR
FAMILY MEMBERS TO REGISTER FOR THE WORKSHOP. WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE CAN
BE SUCCESSFUL. We are counting on your cooperation.

ELIZABETH PEALE JOHNSON, PRES.

FAMILY RESEARCH WORKSHOP

PROGRAM

September 14, 1991

COFFEE

10:00 - 10:30 AM

WELCOME

ELIZABETH P. JOHNSON, PRES. NJAAHGS
WHAT IS A GENEALOGIST?

SESSIONS

#1A 11:15 TO 11:45

HOW TO START? - DICK DICKENSON

#1B 11:15 TO 11:45

ORAL HISTORY GUIDELINES - LUCIUS BOWSER

#2A 11:50 TO 12:25

USING U S CENSUS RECORDS IN FAMILY
RESEARCH - GLENN CUNNINGHAM

#2B 11:50 TO 12:25

CEMETERY RESEARCH - THEODORE BRUNSON

#3A 12:25 TO 12:55

HOW I DID MY RESEARCH - LAMARR ROBINSON

#3B 12:25 TO 12:55

WRITING FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR
ANCESTORS - THERESA THOMAS

LUNCH 1:00PM TO 1:45PM

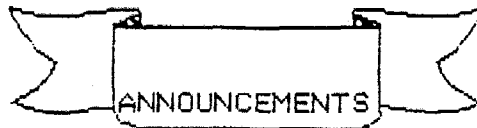
1:45 TO 2:45 PM

SUMMATION AND PANEL ROUNDTABLE

3:00 PM

END OF WORKSHOP

TIMEKEEPER - O. WASHINGTON



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

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

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).

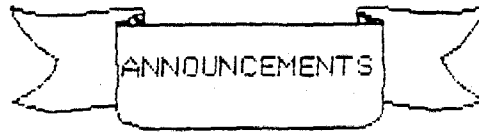
AGENDA

- 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 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.

NJ-AAHGS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS PLEASE NOTE:- Kindly call the Afro-American Historical Society Museum to reserve a seat and to facilitate planning for refreshments. Everyone welcome. Admission Free. (201) 547-5262.

The 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 of the DuBois Book Center, Arnold E. Brown, is also By-Laws Chairman of the New Jersey Chapter AAHGS. Request this valuable resource if you have not already received a copy.

NEWEST AAHGS CHAPTER - Welcome to Central Florida AAHGS Chapter! The Chapter was organized by Arlene Echols with help from Orlando residents A. Lynn Gibbs and Tom Kovalak.

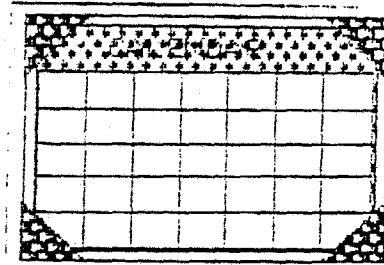


AAHGS -BALTIMORE CHAPTER announces the election of new officers for the Fall 1991 season: president - Willie Ragsdale; vice-president-Fahimisha Jaramogi; secretary - Selma Bieard-Young; and treasurer - Argyrie McCray. Best wishes to these officers and new committee chairpersons in the year ahead!

RESEARCHING INDIAN ANCESTRY - The National Archives Branch at Fort Worth, TX IS THE ONLY REPOSITORY IN THIS COUNTRY FOR RECORDS OF THE FIVE MAJOR TRIBES. They have a large warehouse that holds the records of births, deaths, marriages and more. Write to N.A.R.B., PO Box 6212, Fort Worth, TX 76115. (From Connecticut Society of Genealogist Inc. Newsletter -July-Aug. 1991).-Submitted by Lloyd E. Washington-NJAAHGS.

WORLD WAR I DRAFT - All males between the ages of 18-45 were required to register for the draft, whether or not they ever served. Over 24,000 registrations are available from the Archives Branch, Federal Records, GSA, 1557 St. Joseph Ave., East Point, GA. 30044. Send ancestor's name, town, county and state where he would have filed with a check for \$5.00 (From the Forum Insider.)-Submitted by Lloyd E. Washington-NJAAHGS.

GLENN D. CUNNINGHAM officially retired as Captain from the Jersey City, N.J., Police Department. You guessed it - he's hard at work on that long-awaited book on the life of Blacks in early Jersey City! His retirement was effective July 31, 1991.



FALL 1991 CALENDAR

Sept. 14- 10 am - 3:00 pm -NJ-AAHGS GENEALOGY WORKSHOP, at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N.J. See pages 1 and 2 of this Newsletter for details.

Sept. 14- African-American Festival at the Mall in the Garden State Arts Center, Holmdel, N.J. (AAHGS MEMBERS FROM Monmouth County will participate in this event).

Sept. 15- Family History Fair at New York University, Loeb Center (NJ-AAHGS members needed to cover display table. Call Lloyd E. Washington if you can assist, (201) 763-4949.

Sept. 21(11 am-6 pm) and Sept. 22 (Noon-6 pm) - 13th Annual New Jersey Ethnic Festival, Liberty State Park, Jersey City, N.J.(NJ-AAHGS volunteers needed to cover table display. Call the Afro-American Historical Society Museum and leave message of hours you can help (201) 547-5262.)

FALL 1991 CALENDAR
(Continued)

- Oct. 6 - 1:30 pm - Moravian Cemetery - Commemoration for Col. Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Mass. Regiment which he commanded during the Civil War (for those who have seen the Movie "Glory"). 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 at 140 Tysen St., Staten Island, N.Y. 10301.
- Oct. 12 - SECOND ANNUAL MEETING of the New Jersey Chapter AAHGS at the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, 1841 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N.J. See details, page 3 of this Newsletter.
- Nov. - The Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter AAHGS will host an Orientation to Using Mormon Records in Genealogical Research at the New York Family History Center, 2 Lincoln Square (125 Columbus Avenue). Details in October 1991 NJ-AAHGS Newsletter. All NJ-AAHGS members and friends invited to attend.

SPRING/SUMMER 1991 NJ-AAHGS ACTIVITIES

FAMILY REUNIONS

- August 9 - 11 - (Philadelphia) - Lucius Bowser attended the 11th BOWSER FAMILY REUNION held at the Holiday Inn, Independence Mall, Philadelphia. Forty-eight members attended from Virginia, Ohio, California, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Discussions were held on family history, oral interviews, improvements to the 77 acre BOWSER Plantation in Suffolk, Va., and the creation of a family-wide scholarship fund, consolidating three existing funds.
- August 2 - 4 - EDWARDS-McCOLLUM FAMILY REUNION In Atlanta, Georgia, was attended by Amanda Edwards and her family.
- August 16 - 18 - HALL FAMILY REUNION, attended by Willa Rawlins and her family is in process as this newsletter is being produced.
- August 30 - Sept. 1- The annual PRUITTS' FAMILY REUNION will be attended by Billy Pruitt and his family in Greenville, South Carolina. This year's reunion will focus on youth development and the role of youth in carrying on the family traditions.

- May 18 - GLENN D. CUNNINGHAM spoke on family history research and briefly on his research on Blacks in early Jersey City at a meeting of the New Jersey Chapter of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History at St. John's Methodist Church, Newark, N.J.

SPRING/SUMMER 1991 NJ-AAHGS ACTIVITIES

May 18 - LLOYD E. WASHINGTON spoke before the Westchester African-American History Conference on the topic of "Black New Jersey Soldiers in the Civil War."

June 8 - Twenty-Three NJ-AAHGS Members and Friends gathered at the Northeast Branch of the National Archives in Bayonne, N.J. for a day of personal family research in the Census Records.

June 28 - An issue of the Asbury Park Press mentions the efforts of Ellen Morris and others in Monmouth County to preserve land which may have been a 19th century Black cemetery. The Town of Fair Haven, in which the land is located, has authorized an archaeological firm "to dig for the answer." Three cheers for Ellen and her accomplices! Let us know the outcome. (Article submitted by Amanda Edwards)

July 3 - In a story which gave the history of the Middletown (N.J.) Township Human Rights Commission, The Asbury Park Press carried a photograph of NJ-AAHGS member Bertha C. Heath who serves on the Commission. The photo also included another member of the Commission, Al Harris. The caption over the photo states "A Fight for Fairness." (Submitted by Amanda Edwards).

June 22 - Lisa Crawley, Betty Johnson and Lloyd Washington attended the Spring Conference for Genealogists sponsored by the African American Genealogy Group at the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum in Philadelphia.

June 29- Lisa Crawley and Glenn D. Cunningham volunteered to serve at an Ethnic Festival held at Liberty State Park in which the Afro-American Historical Society had a table display of African artifacts and jewelry.

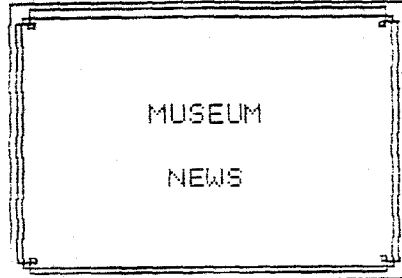
July - Lamarr Robinson travelled to Bowman, South Carolina, where he met a branch of his family for the first time. He was welcomed and learned that he made the right connection. He also met an individual who knew one of his grandparents. Lamarr expects to return to South Carolina in the Fall and explore the cemetery in which his ancestors are buried.

Billy M. Pruitt did extensive genealogy research on several families at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, S. C. during the month of June. His research centered on the pre-Civil War period. The information that he gathered will take some time to sort and record. The Department has a remarkable historical collection on the inhabitants of South Carolina. Anyone doing research in this State should plan on spending time in the Archives and History Search Room.

Lucius Bowser Started a Genealogy Club at the New Jersey State Department of Health where he has been employed for the last thirty years. He found there was an interest in genealogy among 47 Departmental workers. He secured hand-outs from the National Archives and conducted a course on basic genealogy. Lucius says that the response has been great. In addition, Lucius assisted in clearing the family cemetery plot on the Bowser plantation in Suffolk Va. and spent several additional days researching family records in Suffolk and Richmond. As a personal project, Lucius has started searching the 1880 census for the Essex County (N.J.) area of "persons of color." The material will be coded and made into a booklet similar to the one done by NJ-AAHGS MEMBER Ellen Morris for Monmouth County. This is a county by county project that all NJ-AAHGS MEMBERS could undertake and make it a fund raiser for the Society.

SPRING/SUMMER 1991 ACTIVITIES

The NJ-AAHGS Nominating Committee, consisting of Carlos R. Edwards, Chairman, Lisa Crawley and Amanda Edwards, worked to finalize election results for Chapter Officers for the 1991-1993 term and will report its findings at the September meeting.



Mr. Theodore Brunson, Director of the Afro-American Historical Society Museum, was the recipient of recognition and honors in 1991:

The New Jersey State B.P.O.E. of the World recognized him for his contribution to the cause of Civil Rights and bestowed upon him the Felix J. Isom Award at the Somerset Marriot Hotel on June 16, 1991.

The Dr. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Award which he received for his efforts on behalf of Sickle Cell Anemia of Hudson County, brought recognition from the New Jersey State Assembly, which commended him and praised him for his work on June 15, 1991.

The Hudson County (N.J.) Executive and Freeholders presented a citation of congratulations for significant contribution in furthering the knowledge of African-Americans within American culture and in garnering the respect and admiration of his contemporaries — February 28, 1991.

Mr. Brunson contributed an article on the life of Cordelia Thomas Greene Johnson, (1887-1957), who was a founder and president of the Modern Beautician Association, a president of the National Beauty Culturist League and a leader in community affairs. This was published in 1990 in the book, Past and Present, Lives of New Jersey Women, edited by Joan N. Burstyn (Scarecrow Press, Metuchen, N.J.).

Mr. Brunson also contributed an article in a Special Salute to American Heroes edition of City News, published quarterly in Plainfield, N.J. This is entitled "Black blood, sweat and tears build a nation," and emphasizes the participation of Blacks in America's wars from the American Revolution to the war in the Persian Gulf.

Travel News: Mr. Brunson has just returned from a tour to Senegal and Gambia sponsored by Jersey City State College. Mrs. Ethel Martin, Assistant to Mr. Brunson, attended the I.B.P.O.E. of the World Convention in New Orleans.

Mrs. Geneva Hayward, Assistant to Mr. Brunson, was honored on April 14, 1991, Rev. and Mrs. Hayward observed their 40th wedding anniversary, and the occasion was celebrated by the congregation of Corinthian Baptist Church, Jersey City, N.J.

The Afro-American Historical Museum will sponsor an African-American Craft Fair from November 10 - 18 at the Museum.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORD OF A SOMERSET COUNTY SLAVE

first part of an article under the above title was carried in the March 1991 NJ-AAHGS Newsletter and the second part carried in the April 1991 Newsletter. This article was written by the Editor of the Somerset County Historical Society Quarterly and published in 1912 in Vol. III, pp. 187-190. NJ-AAHGS Member R. Boulton Dickenson discovered it in the course of researching records in Somerset County. CONTINUATION FROM APRIL 1991 Newsletter:

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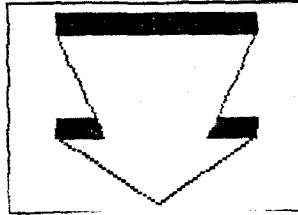
"REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORD OF SAMUEL SUTPHIN, SLAVE

was out at this tour for 3 or 4 days. Went from Readington with the 1st Co. by way of Milltown; escorted Col. Frelinghuysen in Princeton by way of Eggstown, and on Rocky Hill we heard the firing, and soon got into the thick of the battle. Believes Gen'l Washington marched with his army to Germantown into winter quarters.

'Some time in this same Winter a distinguished Tory named Christopher Light, or Voke, led on a large body of Refugees and Tories from Lebanon Hunterdon, said to be from 500 to 6 or 700, attempting to make their way to the headquarters of the army then at Brunswick. They were discovered by Dr. Jennings, and he made it known to Capt. Lane, and the latter was immediately called out with Capt. Jacob Ten Eyck's Comp'y to intercept them; fell in with them at the 2 Bridges, junction of the N. and S. branches of the Raritan; had a fight with them. Wm. Van Syckle of our Co. was wounded in the head; they..... and ran to a fording place near Melius Van Derveer's mill on the N. Branch, where they crossed and made their way toward Brunswick Branch. Ten Eyck's Co. took one prisoner, who was mounted, and Capt. Ten Eyck took his horse. In the night--toward last winter.

'In the spring following, probably March, a party of the enemy from Germantown came out to Van Ess' mills on the Millstone. A party of militia under Lieut. Davis was stationed near the two bridges, when an express came on a black horse from Col. Frelinghuysen gave tidings of the enemy at Van Ess' mills. I piloted Davis' Co. and as many others as we could assemble to a fording place over the S. branch, and hurried on to the mills. They had plundered the mill of grain and flour, and were on their way back to Brunswick, but had not got out of the lane leading from the mill to the great road. We headed them in the lane. The team laden with flour was the first we fell in with; the lane, 100 yards, was filled with 4-horse teams. Davis ordered us to fire, and then we shot part of the 1st team, which stopped the whole drove. The drivers left their teams to run. A guard escorting the teams made their escape. We took, as was reported, about 40 horses, and all the waggons, about 10, which were all sent under an escort to Morristown.

'A party of Hessians, about 1 company (70), an escort for these teams from Brunswick, was discovered secreted behind a hedge with some 4 or 5 field pieces. They fired upon us and retreated. (Cont. in October 1991 NJ-AAHGS Newsletter)



NJ-AAHGS Newsletter
September 1991 - Page Nine

SPECIAL NOTICE TO NJ-AAHGS MEMBERS

Family History Posters

Last year our members prepared family history posters for display on First Anniversary as a Chapter.

This year, in preparation for our Second Anniversary Annual Meeting, encourage our members to update their posters, or design another one on other aspect of the life of family members. Posters are due at the Co-American Historical and Genealogical Society Museum by Monday, October 7. Remember to include dates of events depicted by your poster and names of persons in any photos you use. Please contact Mr. Theodore Johnson at the Museum if you have any questions about the posters. (201)647-5262. (Posters about 20" x 30").

TO 1990-1991 OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

Annual Report forms will be mailed to you shortly for a summary of our activities this past year. These summaries will be compiled into a chapter report for the Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, October 12, 1991. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

QUERY

Seeking information concerning BORDENTOWN MANUAL TRAINING AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL or "Old Ironsides." Founded in 1886 by Rev. W. A. Rice, A.M.E. (founder and First Principal), was the only all black training institution in New Jersey. Information needed on the students, faculty, alumni and present land ownership of former school on Parnell Estate, to produce a short history and possibly an exhibit. (R. Boulton Dickenson, 140 Tysen Street, Staten Island, New York 10301).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Esther Lloyd
3207 Green Hollow Drive
Iselin, N.J. 08830

Samuel Harris
99 Harmon Street
Jersey City, N.J. 07304

Hortense W. Powell, 71 Quitman St., #2B, Newark, N.J. 07103

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, 763-4949
Lucius A. Bowser, Membership & 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
ELIZABETH PEALE JOHNSON, 124 Mt. Salem Road, Wantage, N.J. 07461,
1) 875-4802.