

Genealogical News

The President's Column

Season Greetings Everyone!

Time goes by so quickly. It is hard to believe we are just a few days away from the end of 2022. We have things to be grateful for and things that cause us to pause and reflect.

It has been a very busy year for the MGC Board as we try to come back to some normalcy from the pandemic restrictions. Here are a few of the items we are currently working on:

- Mandatory hook up to the Chesterhill Village new sewer system
- Applying for grants for physical building upkeep and administration needs
- Working with Ohio University graduate student, Viktoria Marinova, from the Social Enterprise Ecosystem group at the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service. Viktoria is helping to refurbish the MGC website and designing a new MGC logo.

(con't on Page 3)

"Compass to Freedom"

It is with great pleasure that we announce the success of the "Compass to Freedom" escape room adventure at MGC. As you may recall this project's formation began in 2020 and though there have been some hiccups along the way, namely the COVID-19 situation, the project has proved to be on target with the original mission to be a resource for increased

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Multicultural
Genealogical
Center

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- "Compass to Freedom"
- "We Couldn't Say"

“Compass to Freedom” (con’t from Page 1)

A D V E N T U R E

Multicultural knowledge, preservation of history and providing a better understanding and the fighting thereof of racism . One facet that we have found to be particularly gratifying is that the experience gives an opportunity to advance crucial conversations about race and as well as the area genealogy between the MGC volunteers who staff the event and event attendees.

Groups of locals have visited and yet it has served as a tourist destination for visitors who have traveled from several hundred miles away. Local businesses have been impacted as well by the economic ripple effect within the community.

Attendees have found the experience to be educational, entertaining and even challenging at times. Groups have participated from Marietta College, a Canaanville Ohio Church Youth group, Hopewell Health staff, students from Ohio University, MGC members and donors, and friends of MGC. Pictures of some of the groups are posted below.

We are grateful for the additional exposure MGC gains from such a project and the opportunity to share resources that are available regarding this rich multicultural history and heritage of the community and beyond.

Special thanks goes to Hilferty and Associates for their assistance with the brochure design , the Morgan County Fortuna Fund grant, the Morgan County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and MGC volunteers.

More information regarding the adventure is available on the MGC website, mgcenterchester-hill.org. Contact Rhonda (rhonda42@gmail.com) or Karen (kstevenswalker@yahoo.com) to schedule your team for this adventure where the reality of the historical Underground Railroad comes alive.



***“If you hear the dogs,
keep going. If you see
the torches in the
woods, keep going. If
there's shouting after
you, keep going. Don't
ever stop. Keep going.
If you want a taste of
freedom, keep going.”***

— Harriet Tubman

In Memoriam

Mary Mae Cassells Kearney, age 101, quietly passed away in her sleep on Saturday, November 19, 2022 with her loving and faithful daughter by her side. She was born in Harrisville, Ohio on November 14, 1921. She was preceded in death by her parents, Victor and Annie Cassells, her loving husband James Arnett Kearney of 53 years, her daughters, Aloma F. Kearney Mason and Rita R. Kearney Emmanuel; son-in-law, Winston L. Murray, Jr. M.D., granddaughter, Nena E. Carr Jackson; seven brothers and five sisters. Mary is survived by her loving family, children, James (Jimmy) Arnett Jacobs, Franklin James (Peggy) Kearney, Linda J. (Richard) Kearney Carr, Larry L. Kearney and Teresa A. Kearney Murray; grandchildren, Marvin S. Kyle, Jr., Yolonda L. Kyle, James E. Mason, Ronald W. Lee, Necolle M. (Brian) Mason Steele, Aneka C. Carr Burton, Winston "W.T." L. Murray, III, Tanya E. Kearney-Johnson, Jessica R. Kearney-Perice, Nicholas "Nick" J. Kearney and Taleetha L. Hawkins and many, many great and great great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and cousins.



She was a member of New Salem Baptist Church, Pastor Dr. Keith A. Troy. Mary was a beautiful loving Mother, a proud lady whom read her Bible every day, a fantastic cook, and the best swimmer in the family. She owned her own restaurant, "The Kearney's Sandwich Shop". In 1984, she retired from the Defense Investigate Security Clearance Office (DISCO).

Mary enjoyed doing top-security background clearance checks on high profiled individuals. For her superior work record, she was awarded with multiple plaques and letters for her contribution to that division of the government. She was the matriarch of the family, a historian and a poet. Mary was first published as a poet at the age of 85. Her poem "We Couldn't Say" tells the story of when she found out about our connection to Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings. She gave many lectures in several states regarding her 3rd great grandfather, 3rd U.S.A. President Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings, his enslaved house servant. As a descendant, she and her family were given lifetime passes to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Virginia.

Mary told her family's oral history to the curator in Charlottesville, Virginia at the Jefferson Library, The African American Civil War Museum in Washington, D.C., Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, Black History week at Reynoldsburg High School in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, the State of Ohio Office Building during black history month, Martin Luther King branch of the Franklin County Library.

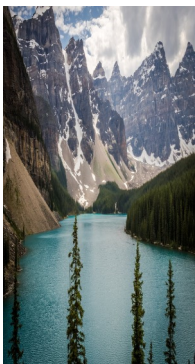
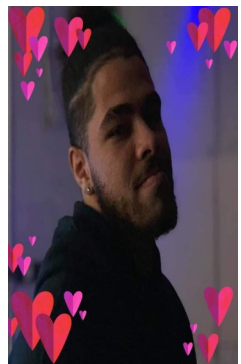
She had been a historian for the Susan B. Weaver Cancer Ray. She often did various tasks for philanthropist cousin Dorothy Cage Evans. She was also very active in the Thomas Woodson Family Reunions.

Obituaries



Gene S. Adams, 88, of Waterford, passed away on Weds, Oct. 12, 2022 at the Marietta Memorial Hospital. He was born on Nov. 12, 1933 in East Chicago, Indiana to the late Pearl and Luella Stevens Adams. He worked as a fabricator for Sterling Engineering in Columbus. He is survived by his son, Doug (Stephanie) Adams of Columbus, a daughter, Susan Adams of Waterford, 4 grand children, 8 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife, Opal Cunningham Adams and a son, Ivan Adams. Services were held on Mon, Oct. 17, 2022 at 12:00 noon at the Cutler Mission Church in Cutler with Pastor Junior Walker officiating with burial following in the Miller Cemetery at Cutler.

Dontel L. Mayle, 24, of Zanesville, formerly of Chesterhill, passed away on Sat, Oct. 1, 2022. He was born in Marietta, Ohio on Dec. 8, 1997 to Robert and Teresa Mayle. He worked as a pipe fitter for the Woda Cooper Co. in Columbus. Everyone knew him as DON BOI. He is survived by his father, Robbie Mayle of Stockport, mother, Teresa Mayle of Zanesville, grandparents, Beverly Willet of Stockport and Bob and Connie Mayle of Chesterhill, 3 brothers, Seth Mayle of Chesterhill, Tevin Hill of Zanesville and Montel Mayle of Reynoldsburg, 3 sisters, Jocelyn Mayle of Wellston, Arayah Mayle of Stockport and Harmony Mayle of Stockport, several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He is preceded in death by a sister, Nevaeh Mayle. Services were held on Fri, Oct. 7, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. at the Stone-Matheney Funeral Home in Chesterhill with burial following in the Chesterhill Cemetery.



Kermit Norris, 98, of Cutler, passed away on Tues, June 7, 2022, at the Marietta Memorial Hospital. He was born on Nov. 24, 1923 in Cutler, Ohio to the late Owen and Stella Tate Norris. He graduated from Bartlett High School where he was a member of the Basketball team. Kermit worked and retired from Timken Steel Company in Canton, Ohio and attended the Bethel Wesleyan Church near Bartlett. He is survived by several nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife, Winnie Croston Norris, 2 sisters, Kathleen Hill and Wilma Croston and a brother Gail Norris. Funeral services were held on Fri, June 10, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. at the Stone-Matheney Funeral Home in Chesterhill with burial following in the Rockland Cemetery in Belpre.

Cathy D. Nelson was a teacher in the Columbus Public Schools for 36 years, and founder of the "Friends of Freedom Society a 19th century historical research organization whose main focus is the Underground Railroad." "Ohio's role in the Underground Railroad is very important because I like to think of it as the gateway to freedom," said Nelson

One of Nelson's biggest achievements was the idea and completion of the "River to Lake" Underground Railroad Markers that tell the historic stories of each area.



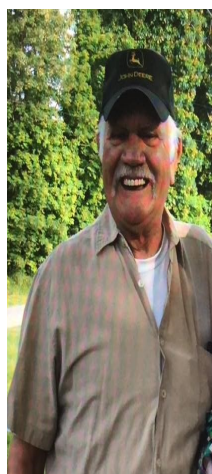
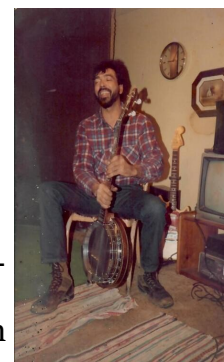
1951-2022

Dale Joseph Winters, 71, of Vincent, passed away on Weds, July 20, 2022 at his residence. He was born on Feb. 21, 1951 in Cutler, Ohio to the late Woodrow and Edna Holden Winters. He served his country in the US Navy and was a member of the Parkersburg Post #15 American Legion. He retired from Johns-Manville Corp in Parkersburg where he worked as a mechanic. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Gloria Sephus Winters of the home, 3 sons, Aaron (Tara) Winters of Marietta, Adam (Abigail) Winters of Beaufort, SC and Alex (Autumn) Winters of Cutler, a daughter, Autumn (Patrick) Bratke of Vincent, 5 sisters, Linda Clary of Longview, WA, Susan Mayle of Cutler, Margaret Mayle of Cutler, Sally Drake of Little Hocking and Ester Sargent of Waterford and 18 grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents. A memorial services was held on Fri, July 29, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. at the Stone-Matheney Funeral Home in Chesterhill with burial following in the Centenary Cemetery near Cutler.



Robert J. “Bobby Todd” Mayle 70, of Chesterhill, OH passed away on May 26, 2022, at Marietta Memorial Hospital in Marietta OH. He was born Nov. 6, 1951 in Cutler, OH to the late Ralph S. Mayle and Anna Mae (Ramsey) Mayle. He loved to play horseshoes and spending time with family. He is survived by his wife, Shelly Mayle, 2 sons, Tony Miracle (Diana Goins) of Plantsville, OH, and Robert “Little Bobby” (Jennifer) Mayle of McConnellsville, OH, daughter, Jamie Mayle of Chesterhill, 6 grandchildren, Mariah, Dashia, Brayden, Tamia, Brynn, Madison and great grandchild Ca’Mari. Other than his parents, he is preceded in death by 5 brothers and 3 sisters. Funeral service was held at Mt. Hermon Church on Wed. June 1, 2022 with Pastor J.R. Walker officiating.

Paul Edward Tabler, better known by the nickname “**P Tac**”, went to be with the Lord on May 6, 2022, at the Riverside Methodist Hospital, in Columbus, Ohio. Paul was born on April 9, 1951, to Shirl Sherman Tabler and Katherine Flowers Tabler in Zanesville, Ohio. He was the second of 9 children. He is survived by his siblings (Danny, Deitra, Linda, Cheryl, and Gene), five sons (Jimmy Mayle, Steven and Keith Tabler, Mark Nice “Marky”, & Justin Nice) along with his nine grandchildren (Kelsey, Brent, Lashayla, Jakayla, Jayden, Destiny, Josh, Eva, and Boone), a multitude of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, and his beloved Marla Nice. Paul is preceded in death by his parents and 3 brothers (Michael, Shirl Wayne and Barry). To honor Paul’s wishes there will not be a funeral service, but a Memorial and Celebration of Life at a later date.



Herman “Bill” Kennedy Sr, 79, of Chesterhill, passed away on Tues, April 26, 2022 at the Highland Oaks Nursing Home in McConnellsville surrounded by his family. He was born on Oct. 20, 1942 in Chesterhill to the late William Ed and Reathel Mayle Kennedy. He retired from the Central Ohio Coal Company. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam and was a member of the Apostolic Pentecostal Tabernacle Church in Chesterhill. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Peggy Johnson Kennedy, 2 sons, Macky (Helen) Seyfried and Bill (Nichole) Kennedy both of Chesterhill, a daughter, LeAnn Seyfried of Chesterhill, 2 sisters, Shirley Rush and Tret Norris both of Chesterhill, 11 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, a daughter, Laura Mayle, a son, Nick Kennedy, 3 brothers, Fluke, John and Buck Kennedy and 3 sisters, Susie Rush, Rose Mayle and Nancy Dalton. Services were held on Sat. April 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Mt. Hermon Church near Amesville, Pastor Junior Walker officiating, with burial following in the Mt. Hermon Cemetery.

Valerie Jane Hughes (Harris), 53, of Cutler, Ohio passed away in her home on February 19, 2022. Born March 2, 1968 to Roger L. Harris Sr. and Hilda R. Harris (Mayle) in Zanesville, Ohio. She is survived by her husband (John Hughes), her younger brothers (Roger Harris Jr., Joshua Harris, and Nathan Harris), her sisters-in-law (Melinda Tabler, Mindy Tabler, and Hope Harris (Thomas)), and by her four nieces and single nephew (Destiny Tabler, Kylie Tabler, Hillary Tabler, Hannah Tabler, and Isaac Harris). She is preceded in death by her parents.



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EPILOGUE: The Life of POPPA George

December 20, 1990

Continued from the December 2021 issue of MGC's Newsletter

The Life and Times of Poppa George Better Known As Rev. G. W. Morse By Carlotta P. Workman

PART FOUR OF POPPA GEORGE

After coming to the city, the Hutchesons, a wealthy family that my father and Grandma Morse had worked for, hired my oldest sister, Cornelia, to be their cook. Mrs. Tracy was the lady of the house and told my father she wanted to teach me how to be a waiter. So, at the age of 9 years I was working for an older lady who also was a devout Christian. I saw her pray every morning. She made me memorize the Ten Commandments and endeavored to teach me the difference between right and wrong. She reminded me of my Grandma Morse. She gave me a little Testament and she prayed that the Lord would make me a good boy as my Grandma often did. Those prayers would haunt me, especially during the night (at which time I was afraid of my 'shadow').

Later, I left the Hutchesons and worked for a Dr. Haines who lived further down Government Street.

CHAPTER II

NORTH AT "17"

"THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA"

We were living on St. Anthony Street in Mobile when my father decided to answer the call for laborers in the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was during the time of World War I and jobs were available in the North.

Soon after my father got settled in Pittsburgh, he sent for my Uncle Jeffrey Bailey and Charlie Morris, a friend of the family. He suggested to my mother that she send me along! Next to the time I was taken away from my Grandma Morse that was the worst time of sadness in my life. When I was alone in the house in which we were living on Kirkpatrick Street, I shed many tears.

It seems but such a short time later that my father decided to answer another call for workers in Templeton, Pennsylvania, which was 50 miles north in the Allegheny Valley. The wages were to be better in Templeton than in Pittsburgh. So, we went to Templeton and the land through which the Allegheny River flows.

"TEMPLETON"

Templeton was a country town with a very small population. I had been used to flat land all my life so it seemed very strange to be nestled down between what seemed like mountains on each side of the river. There were mountains everywhere! Little did I know that in this Valley events would happen that would start me on a challenging direction.

The works in Templeton consisted of a coal mine, a clay mine, a limestone mine, an iron ore mine, plus a large fire yard where my father was working and I was later employed.

Up to this point, we had no church experience in Templeton. I soon found out that there was no color line in the Templeton churches.

William Brooks, a white man from Templeton, invited us to attend his church, which we did the first Sunday we were there. However, the following week a minister by the name of James Peter Enty came along where my father and I were lodging and invited us to attend the Wesleyan Methodist Church that was located in the upper part of the town in what was known as Whiskey Hollow. That Sunday we met in what was supposed to be a colored church; but, most of the people there were white, at least as far as I could determine they were!

These people were very hospitable and kind. They invited me and my father to their houses for some of the most sumptuous meals we had ever eaten. I soon got over my homesickness!

A few months later my father sent for the rest of my family. After we were all united, the first thing I did was to inform my younger sisters about the goodness of the people in Templeton, I invited them to go with me to the churches in Templeton. They went and soon they were well acquainted with the people. They loved them!

To Be Continued

"My Conversion"

President's Column (con't from Page 1)

- Plans are in the works to restart the monthly membership meetings in the first quarter of 2023
- "Compass to Freedom" escape room experience continues with pleasing success. There are several college and civic groups already scheduled for 2023.
- Planning an outdoor outreach event for Spring 2023 at MGC. The event will be open to all and will provide an opportunity to get reacquainted with MGC and the resources available.

These are just a few of the items on the agenda as we plan for next year and years to come. Your continued support is invaluable as we wish to make a greater impact to share local history, educational programs, and promotion of our rich multicultural heritage.

Wishing You a Safe and Happy Holiday Season,

Rhonda Tabler, President

Resources at MGC

For over 20 years, Connie and Michel Perdreau sought out and collected information on African-Americans in Southeast Ohio. The material they gathered ranges from census records, biographies, excerpts from books, personal interviews, and more, including their own articles and publications resulting from their dedicated research. The Perdreau Research Collection now housed at MGC comprises approximately 15 linear feet of files arranged alphabetically by broad subject areas and personal names.

We Couldn't Say

By Mary Cassells Kearney

Down in the country, on a small mound
Sat a small brick house, down from the town.
The birds sang songs that all birds knew,
Flying and chirping in the late spring hue.
The children all loved this place in the hills,
Working and playing and looking for thrills.
Some folks say this family was great;
There were only a few that showed their hate.
Some others that you thought would never be a friend
Named their children after this famous man's kin.
But one winter day our father did show
A small brown album with relatives aglow.
"These are your ancestors," he said to us.
We were shocked and amazed but warned not to make a fuss.
After years of silence, as the world can see,
This famous man was kin to me.



Books Available for Purchase

Profits from the sale of these books go to MGC. Send your order and payment listed below.

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The Multicultural Genealogical Center Heritage Cookbook: A Celebration of our History and Diversity, Vol. 1 (2003) is a collection of recipes handed down through the families whose stories are included plus recipes from old cookbooks, etc. Stories and genealogies complement the recipes. 110 pp., spiral bound, soft cover, illustrations, index. \$15.00

The Multicultural Genealogical Center Heritage Cookbook, Vol. 2 (2004) is a further collection of historical recipes. 109 pp., spiral bound, soft cover, illustrations, index. ISBN 0-9755300-2-X \$15.00

A Significant Presence: A Pictorial Glimpse of the Black Experience in Athens County, Ohio by Ada Woodson Adams & Nancy E. Aiken (2004) offers a glimpse into the history of Blacks in Athens County, Ohio and at Ohio University. 60 pgs., 185 photographs, soft bound, index. ISBN 0-9755300-1-1 \$25.00

As Long As Hearts Remember: Tributes to Our Late Loved Ones edited by Alvin C. Adams consists of tributes, original poetry and stories, photographs, and obituaries of deceased loved ones. 175 pgs., soft bound. ISBN 0-9755300-0-3 \$25.00

The Sandusky Muskingum Indian Trail in Southeastern Ohio 1786-1807. A historical collection of information by Richard Walker, Ph.D. Maps and photographs add to the tracing of this ancient historical trail used by the first Native Americans and many of this country's pioneers. Approx. 140 pgs. spiral bound, soft cover. \$15.00

Profits from the sale of these books go to MGC. Send your order and payment listed below.

Send orders for books to: MGC, P.O. Box 125 Chesterhill, OH 4372

Hotel Berry



“HOTEL BERRY” TELLS ONE OF THE UNTOLD STORIES OF ATHENS, OHIO

Ohio University College of Fine Arts professional theater company, Tantrum Theater with Mount Zion Baptist Church Preservation Society showcased the play “Berry Hotel”.

Playwright Jacqueline E. Lawton delves into Black excellence in the face of racism. Edward and Mattie Berry, founders of the Hotel along with Athens only Black practicing lawyer, Andrew Jackson Davison, and wife Eliza Brown Davison played key roles in sharing the historic 1912 Black story.

MULTICULTURAL GENEALOGICAL CENTER

MGC

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