

Genealogical News

The President's Column

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well. As we move through these uncertain times, MGC like all of you has had to make adjustments. Although our board of directors continue to meet via Zoom and phone conference calls, we miss seeing all of you at the monthly membership meetings and other events.

In December 2020, MGC was awarded a \$1,000 matching funds grant from the Morgan County Community Fund Fortuna Grant Program and the Foundation For Appalachian Ohio (FAO). This grant will fund a project entitled the Escape Room Engagement. A group of MGC volunteers has begun work on this project for which we are very excited. This is an initiative to reach (con't Page 5)

The True Meaning of Black History Month

Commentary by Dr. Jeremy I. Levitt

What is the origin and purpose of Black History Month? Let me begin by telling you what Black History Month is not. It is not some cultural festivity reserved for Black people. It is not a month-long affirmative action holiday for Black Americans. Nor is it a 30-day shaming of White people for 400 years of enslavement and racial segregation.

It is not a month of mourning for deceased Black icons. The creation of Black History Month was a reaction to the widely held belief among White Americans in the early 20th century and prior that Blacks made no significant or viable contribution to human civilization, let alone America.

The formal celebration of Black history in the United States began in 1926 as "Negro History Week." Carter G. Woodson, known as the "Father of Black History" and the second Black to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University after W.E.B. Dubois, selected the second week in February for Negro History Week because it marked the birthdays of two of the most influential figures in American politics: Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. (con't Page 3)



Multicultural
Genealogical
Center

7540 Marion St
P. O. Box 125
Chesterhill, OH
43728

740-525-7398

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News from the Past	2
Obituaries.....	4
Movies	6
Books.....	7
Perdreau Collection	7

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Black History Month
Commentary
- Escape Room Project

ZANESVILLE, MUSKINGUM COUNTY CONNECTION

*The Life and Times of **Poppa George** Better Known As*

Rev. G. W. Morse By *Carlotta P. Workman*

In the next several issues of our Newsletter we will share some highlights found in the book. Series I

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

For their generous support through good times and bad, which enable me to complete this story, I am indebted to my co-author and Grandfather, Rev. George Washington Morse; my Mother, Pauline Ruth Morse Peterson; my Grandmother, Mary Myrtle Enty Morse; my husband, James Edward Workman, Jr.; and my other relatives and friends whose vision prompted me and my Grandfather to write "his" story.

Many uncounted hours have been put into this piece of history. Grandpa typed his memoirs in his own words...he typed eleven pages in all! He also talked to me on tape, answering two hours' worth of questions and filling in the gaps of his life's story.

Newspaper clippings and the Mid-Week Visitor additional information and facts which I incorporated into this history. Many stories and anecdotes which Grandpa relayed to me did not make this final copy as they were too numerous to include.

Quotes from poems that were used at the Annual Victory Dinner on February 23, 1980, at the Wings of Hope Tabernacle, which was to honor the 80th birthday of my Grandpa Morse, have been used in this story, also. Of course I have my own memories of Grandpa and they are in this scenario, too.

My hope is that those who read this will learn a great deal more about a person whom I think is very exceptional. I feel honored and blessed to say that Rev. G. W. Morse is my grandfather in word and in deed.

I hope you enjoy this as much as I have enjoyed putting it all together for you the reader.

Carlotta Paulette Peterson Workman, Oldest Grandchild, October 22, 1980

Carlotta donated a copy of the book to the Multicultural Genealogical Center located in Chesterhill, Ohio to be shared and use for genealogical purposes. We are grateful for her generosity.

(Continued on Page 3)

Chapter 1 MY ALABAMA BIRTH

“The Eastern Shores of Mobil Bay”

I was born on February 22, 1900, near a resort on the eastern shores of Mobile Bay in Baldwin County, Montrose, Alabama. I was born the third child of 14 children, 9 girls and 5 boys in all. The name given to me GEORGE WASHINGTON MORSE. I later learned that this name was given to me by Mrs. Susie Littles, principal of the Academy at Daphne, Alabama. She felt that I should be named after the first president of the United States! I learned not to like my name because kids at school would tease me and say, “George Washington, never told a lie, cut down a cherry tree, etc.”.

Next Newsletter will cover G. W. Morse Heritage...Indian, Black, Enslaved...to be Cont.

Black History Month (con't from Page 1)

Black History Month affords us the opportunity to honor the monumental achievements of living pioneers and departed path-breakers from advocates and educators to innovators and discoverers. Black History Month provides all Americans with the opportunity to celebrate the rich culture, heritage, and achievements of Blacks from Compton to Cairo and Brooklyn to Benin.

Studying Black history is vital for Black Americans and important for all Americans. When nearly everything that is taught in primary and secondary school excludes, denigrates and white washes Black history and people, and nearly every movie, television show and children's book discounts or excludes Black actors, narratives and stories, all Americans are miseducated and indoctrinated into a disingenuous and warped history of Black Americans that fortify scientific racism or racial inferiority and superiority doctrines. No group is more harmed by this than Black Americans.

While it may be the shortest month of the year, Black History Month empowers us to examine the great contributions of Black people to the America's and human civilization generally, and forces us to study the critical role that other groups of people and nations have played in shaping Black History as liberators, allies and oppressors. When we study Black History, we study ourselves, our national history and heritage.

No one group owns, controls or is entitled to celebrate Black History Month more than any other. It is the product of a shared legacy of tragedy and triumph that all Americans have a civic responsibility and duty to learn about, reflect upon, debate and share. We should never allow political correctness, convention, privilege, guilt, or perceived racial ownership interfere with our quest for knowledge and cross-cultural exchange, because to know Black history is to know world history.

This column originally appeared on OrlandoSentinel.com. The author is distinguished professor of international law at Florida A&M University College of Law.

He is a member of the Central Florida 100. (This article appears as edited by MGC)

TIDBIT:

Africa Alley
(Athens, Ohio)

Rev. George Washington, of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, came before the council to ask that the name of Africa Street be changed. This street is a continuation of Lancaster street to the river, due south.

Rev. Washington stated that this street had been given a hard name, and that wherever anything happened thereabouts, the news papers gave it so much prominence that the colored population felt it was doing them injury. Rev. Washington suggested that it be called Summit Street and several councilmen thought it should be continued as South Lancaster. Solicitor Price stated that the name must be changed by a petition presented by the property owners and in this way African Alley will very probably cease to exist.

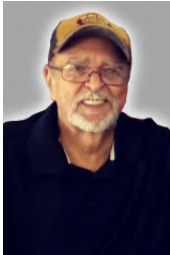
Athens Daily
Messenger
Athens, Ohio
July 6, 1907

Obituaries



Elizabeth (Irene) Flowers, of Kilvert, Ohio, 93, died on Monday, Dec. 14, 2020, in The Laurels of Athens. She was born in Blue Rock, Ohio, to Willis and Flossie (Dalton) Goins and was one of ten children. Irene married Charles Flowers on January 1, 1947. She is survived by her children, Judy (Gail) Tabler, Betty (Raymond) Walker, Shirley (Henry) Stewart, Rosemary (Joe) Butcher, and Lonnie (Terri) Flowers; grandchildren, Shannon Tabler, Angela Brown, Morgan Bayes, Brandi Lemon, Matthew Walker, Ashley Flowers, Ian Butcher, Iris Butcher, Brittany Flowers, and Lonnie (LJ) Flowers; and two siblings, Willis Goins, Jr. and Helen Holbert. Irene was preceded in death by her husband; son, James "Jimmy"; her parents; and her siblings, Charles, Elsie, Albert, Edna, Jessie, Bessie, and Danzel.

Raymond Gifford Walker, 69, of Sardis, Ohio, passed away Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020, at Wheeling Hospital. Raymond was born December 4, 1951, in Athens County, Ohio, to the late Everett Walker and Garnet Tabler. He leaves behind his wife of 46 years; daughters, Angela (Julius) Brown, Morgan (Travis) Bayes, Brandi (Alonzo) Lemon; and son, Matthew (Ashleigh) Walker. Raymond and Betty have eight grandchildren, Evelyn Brown, Azariah and Japeth Bayes, Raelyn and Anthony Lemon, and Jourdan, Brayden and Ander Walker. Also surviving is his brother, Leroy Walker; and sisters, Elnore Walker and Lizzy Tabler. Preceding him in death are his parents; brothers, Roger and James Walker; and sister, Barbara Goins.

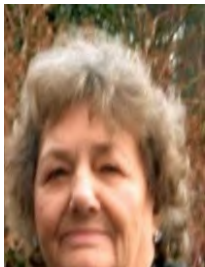


Myra Elaine Mayle, 61, of McConnelsville, Ohio, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021. Myra was born October 1, 1959, to Robert L. and Gloria A. (Stevens) Mayle. Myra is preceded in death by her beloved son, Uriah. In addition to her parents, Myra also leaves to cherish her memory, her siblings, Pamela (James) Mayle, Robert (Connie) Mayle, Jr., Rhonda Mayle-Stevens, Nina (Anthony) Mayle, Keith (Doretta) Mayle, Twila Mayle, Laura (Jerome) Viney, and Ryan (Diane) Mayle.

Starla F. Tabler, of Malta, formerly of Broadwell, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021. She was born on July 30, 1970, to Ira and Carole Waters Tabler. She is survived by a son, Joseph Paul of Newark; three brothers, Ira Tabler, Jr., of Broadwell, Mike Tabler of Jacksonville and Ike Tabler of Kilvert; a sister, Tonya Hill of Glouster; and two grandchildren.

Rena M. Thompson, 60, of Chesterhill, passed away on Friday, Jan. 15, 2021, at her residence. She was born on April 5, 1960, in Chesterhill, to the late Freddy Beard and Opal Thompson. She is survived by three sons, Neil Carson of Stockport, Timki Carson of Chesterhill and Tylor Thompson of Chesterhill; a daughter, Rose Williams of Crooksville; a brother, Curtis (Pam) Mayle of Chesterhill; two sisters, Brenda (Don) Blackstone of Akron and Jeannie Mayle of Malta; and six grandchildren.

Orpha V. Jenkins, 88, of Chesterhill, OH, passed away Thursday, June 18, 2020 at the Highland Oaks Healthcare in McConnelsville. She was born June 18, 1932 in Zanesville, OH, a daughter of the late Aaron and Grethel Mae Baker Parsons. Surviving is her husband of 71 years, Wilbert W. Jenkins; her children, Shelly Dalton of Canton, OH, Arlene Mayle (Terry) of McConnelsville, Donnie Jenkins of Florida, Bruce Jenkins (Terri), Kevin Jenkins, and Marvin Jenkins all of Chesterhill; two sisters, Nina Mayle (Jethro) and Darlene Norris (Melvin) both of Bartlett, OH; one brother, Alford Parsons of Chesterhill; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. In addition to her parents, Orpha was preceded in death by her sisters, Alice Mayle and Lola Parsons and her brother, Bob Parsons.

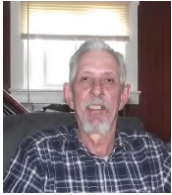


Wilbert Wayne Jenkins, 92, of Chesterhill, OH passed away Jan, 20, 2021 at Riverside Landing in McConnelsville, OH. He was born Jan. 19, 1929 in Zanesville, OH a son of the late Lee and Leora Flowers Jenkins. He is survived by his daughters, Shelly Dalton of Canton, OH and Arlene Mayle (Terry) of McConnelsville, OH; his four sons, Donnie Jenkins of Florida, Bruce Jenkins (Terri), Kevin Jenkins, and Marvin Jenkins all of Chesterhill, OH; and one sister, Darlene Jenkins of Stewart, OH. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Orpha V. Jenkins; sons, Gregory Jenkins and Jerry Jenkins; sisters, June Hill, Naomi Goins, Mae Singer, Carol Mayle, and Irene Jenkins and brothers, Bob Jenkins and Sharon Jenkins.



In Memoriam (con't)

Richard Lee Hill, 74, of Chesterhill, Ohio, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. He was born November 25, 1946, to the late Charles and Norma Hill. He is survived by his sisters, Mary Belle Tabler of McConnellsville and Faye Mayle of Canton. He is also survived by his five children, Brian Croston, Richard Hill, Lisa Hill, David Hill, and Charles Hill. Richard is preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Wilma Mayle.



Gary D Culberson (Mayle), 70, of Canton, Ohio, passed away Thursday, June 18th, 2020 at his home. Born in Phillippi, West Virginia on July 25, 1949, a son of the late Jerry Mayle and Verna Gordon. He was preceded in death by his daughter Leslie Sayre. He leaves behind his wife of 38 years Rosemary (Talarovich) Culberson; 2 sons Kevin Culberson, Michael Culberson; step daughter Robyn Simmons; 3 brothers Allan Dale, Mike Bryan; half brother Jerry David (Paulette); half sisters Mary, Margie, Angie, Crystal and as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Leonard L. Mayle, 93 of Louisville, Ohio, passed on June 17, 2020. He is born in Elizabeth, WV on April 17, 1927, a son of the late Riley Sr and Laura (Holbert) Mayle. He survived by his wife of 57 years, Flo Ann Mayle; 2 daughters Lessie (Chester) Mayle-Parsons, Alice (Larry) Martin; sister Gertrude Logan; brother Riley Jr. (Anne) Mayle; grand children, and great-grandchildren. Leonard was preceded in death by 3 brothers, Eugene, Raymond and Bernard Mayle; 2 sisters Freda Mae Caldwell and Annabelle Dilworth.



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

community members and other visitors through multicultural history and heritage. An escape room has been described as “an interactive adventure game during which a set of players (usually between 2 and 8 people) are locked in a room and have to solve riddles and use a series of clues in order to break out”. The use of an escape room presentation of multicultural history has great potential to reach more of our Morgan County residents and others in appreciating our shared heritage. In the process of sharing heritage, we shall generate funds for the furtherance of MGC’s mission. The Center in Chesterhill will be the location for the experience. A timeline has been set for the different stages of progress. We will keep you updated as to the project’s progress.

The board continues to make plans regarding upgrades to the MGC facility in Chesterhill. Discussion are being held with contractors as to what improvements are needed and the cost. In 2011 a number of improvements were made to the building including new siding and windows on one of the four sides. However, the remaining sides need siding and windows replaced. There is a need for improved handicap access and parking. Last but not least, fortunately the monthly membership “in house” meetings prior to COVID-19 were so well attended that more seating space is needed; so expansion involving adding on a larger meeting room is also part of these discussions.

Another priority on the “to do” list is the updating of the website. A date has been set for a committee to meet in the next month to address this issue. We are looking for assistance with the website, so if you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please contact me.

Thank you for your continued support of MGC through membership renewals, donations and those of you who have volunteered. Your support powers what we do as a group and keeps MGC going during these unprecedented times. We look forward to the day when we can once again meet face to face. Stay safe, but stay active.

Rhonda Tabler, President

Movies You May Find of Interest



MARSHALL –2017- PG13

Starring Chadwick Boseman, Josh Gad, Kate Hudson, Dan Stevens, Sterling K. Brown, and James Cromwell. Director Reginald Hudlin's Marshall, is based on an early trial in the career of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. The high profile case served as a template for Marshall's creation of the NAACP legal defense fund.



RAY — 2004 PG-13

Born in a poor town in Georgia, Ray Charles went blind at the age of seven shortly after witnessing his younger brother's accidental death. Inspired by a fiercely independent mother who insisted he make his own way in the world, Charles found his calling and his gift behind a piano keyboard. As he revolutionized the way people appreciated music, he simultaneously fought segregation in the very clubs that launched him and championed artists' rights within the corporate music business.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ANDRÉ- 2018 PG-13

André Leon Talley. The Gospel According to André takes viewers on an emotional journey from André's roots growing up in the segregated Jim Crow South to become one of the most influential tastemakers and fashion curators of our times. The Gospel According to André is an indispensable addition to the growing canon of fashion documentary.



WHAT HAPPENED TO MISS SIMONE? NR-2015

Using never-before-heard recordings, rare archival footage and her best-known songs, this is the story of legendary singer and activist Nina Simone

*MGC would appreciate receiving your feedback regarding the
Genealogical News*

Please send your comments to

mgc7540@gmail.com

*Also, we encourage the submission of appropriate articles for
the newsletter by the membership. Mail articles to:*

MGC, P. O. Box 125, Chesterhill, OH 43728

Or Email to mgc7540@gmail.com

Books Available for Purchase

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

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

Hold Tight to the Hames. Stories about growing up black in rural southern Ohio by Alvin C. Adams who grew up to be the first black graduate of Ohio University's School of Journalism, covered the Civil Rights protests in the south, interviewed Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, helped found the Multicultural Genealogical Center, and had a dormitory at Ohio University named after him. 164 pgs., soft bound. \$35.00

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

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



B

O

O

K

S

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.

MULTICULTURAL GENEALOGICAL CENTER

MGC

Board Of Directors

Rhonda Tabler, President

Ada Woodson Adams, Vice President

Karyn Armstrong, Secretary

Karen Walker, Treasurer

Kay Harris

Linda Nippert

Emilie Wood

Nelson Myers

Junior Walker

Jeff Tabler

Sharon Barnett

Multicultural Genealogical Center
P. O. Box 125
7540 Marion Street
Chesterhill, OH 43728

Phone: 740-525-7398

Email: rhondat42@gmail.com
or kstevenswalker@yahoo.com

Website: mgcenterchesterhill.org

