

Genealogical News

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Center, Chesterhill, Ohio

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The Golden Lining

All's well that ends well. Growing up, I heard this saying often.

Little did I know that English-speaking people have used the phrase since 1546 to mean, among other things, that if the result of something is positive any previous difficulties do not matter.

This is particularly pertinent at this time to MGC in regard to our struggle to prepare an application for a 501(c)(3) tax status. Even though we have not yet reached the end of this process, we have cleared a major hurdle.

The problem that I wrote about in the last newsletter, and that our editor cleverly headlined, "etc.," is now history. Our journey toward the "end" started

when MGC board member David Butcher contacted a friend of his who works in the Ohio Secretary of State's office. The friend said, in essence, "Send it to me, and I will get it into the right hands. If you need to fix something, we will let you know."

Within days, we received word from the Secretary of State's office that our request to amend our Articles of Incorporation (in this case, our bylaws) had been approved. This opened the door for us to submit the 501(c)(3) request to the Internal Revenue Service. We have done so.

As we move ahead, it's important that we focus on the future, rather than the past. If it ends well, all is well.

Which reminds me of another adage I grew up with: Around every dark cloud is a silver lining.

More important than the ordeal we suffered is the support—and help—we were offered. From all over. It did my heart good to realize so many people cared. Not just cared, but were willing to help do something about it. That is a golden—not silver—lining surrounding the problem and shining so brightly that the dark cloud was hardly noticeable.

To all who understood, who consoled, who helped—please accept my heartfelt thanks. What you have done had made the whole ordeal worth enduring. It's nice to have friends who care.

Al Adams

2003 Activities

The past year was a busy one for MGC.

In addition to informative membership meeting programs during 2003, we achieved several other things. These include:

Publication of the Heritage Cookbook, Community and Campus Day, David

Butcher's People of Color exhibit at the Kennedy Museum of Art at Ohio University and a presentation about the exhibit on public access TV in Athens, the Wallpaper Project play and dinner chaired by board members Ada Woodson Adams and Mildred Vore and Amy Grove, creation of a webpage by member Paul Grim

(www.mgcenter.org), the annual MGC heritage dinner, and an underground railroad tour at Chesterhill for the United Campus Ministries.

MGC also exhibited at, or participated in, several special events: the White Oak Settlement festival (Barlow, Ohio), Fly & Buy day and

Bylaws

At the December meeting, members approved revised bylaws. The vote also adopted formal Articles of Incorporation for MGC.

These changes will "better position us for the future," MGC President Al Adams said.

Among the major changes adopted is a provision that staggers election of the 11 MGC board members over a three year period. This provision, proposed by bylaws committee member and board member Patty Smith, will help to insure experienced leaders by eliminating the possibility of a completely new board being elected at one time.

At the election this March, all 11 board positions will be filled, but starting next year one-third of the board will be elected each year.

The by-laws committee consisted of Kay Harris, of Cutler, Patty Smith and Al Adams, who served in place of Lee Gregg who was not able to make the meetings. The two documents were drafted by Ohio University masters degree student Krista Duckett, who is serving as an intern to MGC, and her faculty advisor, Bob Daugherty.

The complete Articles of Incorporation and new bylaws are available for review on the MGC website, www.mgcenter.org.



Election

It is election time at MGC and all members should now have the ballot listing those who have been nominated for the board. Ballots are due back (MGC, P. O. Box 125, Chesterhill, Ohio 43728) by March 1.

All MGC members currently in good standing are eligible to vote. If your dues are paid and you did not receive a ballot, please contact immediately, Debbie Rowe at drowe@frognet.net or at 740-551-2699.

The ballot includes candidates nominated by a nominating committee and other members nominated at the January membership meeting who are willing to be a candidate. In addition you may write in the name of candidate(s) you desire if the candidate(s) are in good standing.

Those nominated are: ADA WOODSON ADAMS, ALVIN ADAMS, NANCY AIKEN, DAVID BUTCHER, VIRGINIA NORRIS, DEBBIE ROWE, VICKIE LEE THURSTON, MILDRED VORE, JUNIOR WALKER, SHERRY WALKER, and RICHARD WETZEL. Those whose names are in capital letters were nominated by the nominating committee.

Ballots will be counted at the March membership meeting and the newly-elected board will elect officers at the board meeting the following week.

For information about the candidates, please visit the MGC website, www.mgcenter.org.

Intern

The Ohio University School of Social Work assigned an intern to work with MGC, starting with the fall term, 2003. The intern is Krista Duckett of Portsmouth, Ohio, who is completing work for a master's degree. Her faculty advisor is Bob Daugherty.

MGC presented to the School of Social Work a "wish list" of several things for which we desired help. These included help with our 501(c)(3) application, work on a plan for a permanent MGC home, resource development, revision of our bylaws, Board training, a plan for recruiting volunteers, help in development of a website, and assistance with the Wallpaper Project and the 2004 Community and Campus Day.

Krista and Bob have met with the MGC Board, the officers, and the bylaws committee, and meet regularly with MGC President Al Adams. Using the "wish list", Krista developed a work plan for the remainder of the school year.

Accomplishments through the internship, so far, include: revised bylaws and

Articles of Incorporation, adopted by the membership in December, 2003; amendment of our Articles of Incorporation with the Ohio Secretary of State, in preparation for filing a 501(c)(3) tax status request with the IRS (board members David Butcher and Nancy Aiken helped tremendously with this); filing the 501(c)(3) request, under the guidance of board member Nancy Aiken, with the IRS in December; development of a training workshop for board members and prospective board members, scheduled for January 24, 2004; and assistance with several projects, including the Wallpaper Project play, working a MGC booths/tables at several events, and assisting Al Adams with a presentation to the Friends of Freedom Society's 2003 Underground Railroad Summit in Chillicothe.

Krista will continue to work with MGC until she graduates this spring. The School of Social Work will then attempt to match our needs with the interests and studies of another student who will become an intern working with us.

Community & Campus Day

The Department of African American Studies and the Multicultural Genealogical Center of Chesterhill cordially invite you to attend the third annual Community and Campus Day, which will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2004.

As in the past, the event will exhibit the heirlooms, heritage, hobbies and interests of area residents and showcase their entertainment talents. It is being held in May this year as part of the University's bicentennial celebration and to coincide with the black alumni reunion.

We invite you to not only attend; we would be especially honored to have you participate in the day's activities.

To participate in the exhibits and/or the entertainment, please contact Mildred Vore, 740-678-2339 or VORE43MT@aol.com for more details and a spot in this year's event.

Vibert C. Cambridge, Ph.D., Chair
Department of African American
Studies

Alvin C. Adams, President
Multicultural Genealogical Center

Ada Woodson Adams

MGC Publications

Both *Volume II of the MGC Cookbook* and *As Long As Hearts Remember* are in preparation. The deadlines for submissions are passed and the manuscripts are in the finishing stages.

Look forward to both publications in the reasonably near future.

Nancy Aiken

Wallpaper Project

The Multicultural Genealogical Center and McConnelsville Opera House presented the Wallpaper Project play, **From Here: A Century of Voices from Ohio**, in Morgan County the first weekend of November, 2003.

The play was presented in 40 other counties during 2003 to mark our state's 200th birthday.

Written by Eric Coble, the play told the history of 20th Century Ohio in the recollections of residents. It used over 800 oral histories collected from people all over the state, including excerpts from 24 oral history interviews by MGC in Morgan County and southeastern Ohio.

MGC contributed the stories of: Don Campbell, Madge Carter, Harold Croston, Carl Dodrill, Wilfred Hill, Sara Hurst, Clayton John, Raymond Kittle, Elwood Male, Eleanor Kennedy Mayle, Henry Mayle, Marjorie Rush Mayle, Sheilia M. Rush Mayle, Sue Johnson Mayle, George Newburn, Virginia Norris, Verona Starkey Parsons, Ann Price, Dr. Robert Richmond, Evelyn Lewis Robinson,

Rev. Charles Simmons, Maxine Mayle Smith, Harold E. Sawyer, Janice Allen Wogan and Richard Wetzel.

Cast members in Morgan County's production were Ivars Balkits, James Cochran, Dan Dunn, Barbara Fischer, Darrin Hill, Marna Hyett, Jean Konkale, Dave Martin, Susan Matheney, Virginia Norris, Bob Rothwell, Vickie Lee Thurston, and Mildred Vore. The Multicultural Genealogical Center thanks these and the other individuals who helped make the productions possible.

The statewide project was coordinated by Rachel Barber from Wapakoneta, Ohio, and the play was directed in Morgan County by Jay Smith, director and actor from East Liverpool, Ohio. MGC's Ada Woodson Adams, Mildred Vore and Amy Grove of McConnelsville organized the local event.

The Ohio Humanities Council and the Ohio Arts Council supported the Bicentennial project statewide.

Mildred Vore

2003 Activities (continued from page 1)

Historical underground railroad marker dedication (Chesterhill), Emancipation Day/Homecoming (Rendville), the Lett Family Reunion (Zanesville), the Sustainability Festival (Athens); and worked at a softball tournament to support restoration of the village theater (Chesterhill).

President Al Adams also made several talks on behalf of MGC, including the keynote address to the Martin Luther King, Jr., breakfast in Zanesville, remarks at the Lett Family reunion, the Athens senior club,

Zanesville's Juneteenth Day, Community and Campus Day, the Zanesville chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, and a presentation to the annual Underground Railroad Summit in Chillicothe.

MGC also agreed to become "custodian" of materials produced during the Wayne National Forest's African-American studies associated with Payne Cemetery in Hocking County, Ohio.

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**Multicultural
Genealogical
Center
Board Members**

Al Adams, President

Sherry Walker, Vice President

Rhonda Tabler, Secretary

Mildred Vore, Treasurer

Ada Woodson Adams

Junior Walker

Richard Wetzel

Patty Smith

David Butcher

Nancy Aiken

Henry Burke

Membership Information

- Annual membership runs from January 1 through December 31
- To become a member of the MGC, simply fill out the attached application form and send it along with your dues to:

The Multicultural Genealogical Center

P. O. Box 125

Chesterhill, Ohio 43728-0125

Or bring it to the monthly meeting at The Friends Meeting House on SR #555 next to the fire station in Chesterhill. Monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month.

If you would like to take advantage of the installment plan for a lifetime membership, please contact *Mildred Vore*, Treasurer, at the monthly meeting.