

Genealogical News

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

ADA WOODSON ADAMS

It is a pleasure to say Happy New Year and greet 2015 with anticipation of good things happening for the Multicultural Genealogical Center (MGC). So many things happened in 2014 with and through the activities of MGC that did not get reported in our quarterly Newsletter. For those who have inquired about getting a Newsletter, we were not able to produce but one publication. We lost several people this past year through deaths, moves or life demands that made it impossible for them to serve. We have been and are severely short-staffed.

One key person we lost was our Secretary, Virginia Norris. Virginia was a wonderful person, and she took on many roles. We will do a memorial issue on Virginia in our next Newsletter. It would be great if those of you out there who knew her—or if she touched your life—would write us your tribute to her, and we will post it in the Memorial Issue. Pictures are appreciated too.

Despite the fact that we were short handed, we accomplished a lot.

Our Monthly Membership Programs had outstanding presenters and topic

- Ray and Janice McGreehan: **The history and Genealogy of Athens/ Hocking County Families**
- Robert Gordon: **Footsteps Through Heritage** with an amazing artifact exhibit



Our President, Ada Woodson Adams, speaking on behalf of MGC at the 4th Annual Appalachian Heritage Program at the Statehouse in May 2014

- Michael Jackson: **Life of Nelson T. Gant**
- Attorney Charles Knight: **An historical look at the law and Chester, Ohio**
- Ron Luce: **Black Abolitionists**
- Bennie McRae: **US Colored Troops in the Civil War and How They Helped Shape America**
- Emily Wood: **Heritage Gardening**
- Bill Workman provided a great fish fry at one of our meetings (Free)
- And we ended the year with wonderful holiday potluck with music by members of the Apostolic

Pentecostal Tabernacle choir.

Ohio Hill Country Heritage Area and Heritage Ohio sponsored the 4th Annual Appalachian Heritage Luncheon at the Statehouse in Columbus in May. The Multicultural Genealogical Center was one of the nine success stories honored.

We continue to work with students from Hocking College Natural and Historical Interpretation program students in the study of United States Colored Troops during the Civil War and with Ohio University E.W. Scripps School of Journalism media students in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN THE EARLY DAYS

From U.S. African-American Newspapers 1829-1947, Wichita Kansas, May 31, 1894.

Our Race at the Capitol.

J. H. Beadle, the well-known Washington correspondent, speaking of our race at the nation's capitol says:

"Among their noted men are Frederick Douglass, John M. Langston, John r. Lynch, Robert H. Terrell, Milton M. Holland and James H. Smith—all lawyers except the first named. Among their eminent and learned ministers are Francis J. Grimke, Presbyterian; alexander W. Crummell, Episcopalian; Walter H. Brooks, Baptist, and Rev. Dr. Jenifer, Methodist.

Athens Messenger 1879

Colored School

Albany Items.

Corn cutting has commenced among our farmer friends. The ears are usually well developed, but fodder will be light.

Quite a large number of our citizens attended the basket meeting at Pagetown last Saturday and Sunday.

Rev. L. C. Haddox, a former pastor of the M. E. Church gladdened the hearts of his friends by his presence among us last Saturday.

Rev. P. B. Davis visited his cousin, Mrs. Mitchell, on Monday.

Miss Kate Rossetter of Pomeroy is this week visiting Albany friends.

Miss Kate List of Henry County is visiting her cousin, Miss Mary Foutz.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Roush now occupy Mrs. M. J. Rigg's property.

Johnny Lindley is this week with his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Morton, at Athens.

The Albany Union Sabbath School was re-organized last Sunday by electing J. N. Patterson, Superintendent, and Fritz Holmes, Secretary.

Ex-Commissioner, A. Wilson, last Friday shipped east about sixty head of fat hogs.

John Dewing started Monday on a tour through the west, to be absent some time. He was accompanied as far as Cincinnati by his daughter, Miss Mary, who will visit the Exposition for a few days.

Vorhes Bro., have the cellar and foundation completed and began the frame work on Monday. I understand that they intend putting in an elevator, which will be a great convenience.

Mrs. Allie Richey and Miss Orra Morse visited Wilkesville friends last week.

Miss Affie Robinson, of Amestown, is visiting her aunt, Mrs. D. T. Moore, and other Albany friends this week.

Albany this season presents quite a lively appearance in the way of repairing old buildings, putting up new ones, and fixing up generally. Our citizens seem to have caught the spirit of improvement and are determined to keep pace with the times and make Albany a neat village. We have a good site for a first-class city, but, unfortunately, we have no railroad and consequently are shut off from the outer world during the winter months. Albany, as is well known, has splendid edu-

cational advantages, having four schools, two free—one for colored and one for white children—and two higher schools for more advanced students. Besides these institutions of learning, we have the Wells Library, which contains the choicest selections of literature. The Library is pretty well patronized by our citizens. We have, in Lee township, as many good citizens and business men as are found in any township in Athens County, which fact we will prove this fall by giving you as good a man for treasurer as ever filled the office. Our merchants are full of enterprise and do as good a business the year round as any merchant in southern Ohio, and we can proudly boast that not a drop of intoxicating liquor is sold in the township.

The Athens Messenger, January 7, 1864, 21.1, page 3, col. 3.

Strayed, or Stolen!

On Monday night, Dec. 14th, 1863, two Cows, one a light brindle, 5 years old, with star in forehead; the other white and red, 3 years old, crumpled horns, and wind-galls on right hind leg, were either stolen, or strayed, from the subscriber, living in Rome township. Any person furnishing information in reference to them, or returning them, will be suitably rewarded.

Michael Tabler

Athens Messenger Dec. 18, 1879

--One day last week Jerry Sims, a colored resident of the interesting village of Tabler-town, Rome Township, was fined fifty dollars and costs by Esquire Hodges for committing an assault on Stephen Sweet.



Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Athens: Window
"In Memoriam, SARAH HARRIS"

THE OLDEN DAYS AT KILVERT

by Ada Woodson Adams

I recently found a 1983 news article about Kilvert, Ohio, when the Kilvert Community Center was very active and was having its annual "Pioneer Days Celebration." Harry Smith was the chairman and estimated that over 800 people were in attendance.

Students enacted a historical pageant called "This Is Our Heritage," written by Smith, who was an outreach worker. The play traced 210 years of history with such visitors as George Washington when he was a surveyor for the Ohio Company and Nathaniel Sawyer, a pre-Revolutionary War soldier. Sawyer was involved in what is called the First Declaration of Independence drafted in 1774 at Fort Gower where Hockingport is now situated.

Marking the settlement of the Federal Valley in 1800,

Charles Byron of Stewart created an 8 x 12 foot painting of the valley against a background map of pioneer Ohio; this was used throughout the three-day event.

Seventeen year old Stacey Vore of Vincent-- daughter of Harry and Mildred Vore-- was named "Miss Pioneer Days." At that time, she was a junior at Warren High School. Runner up was Chelsea Singer, 15, of Kilvert--the daughter of Ed and Darlene Singer. "Little Miss Pioneer Days" was Crissy Jenkins, 13, of Kilvert--the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Jenkins. Shannon Tabler, 9, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gail Tabler of Chesterhill was named Little Mister Pioneer Days.

Walter Tabler of Kilvert was honored as most outstanding man of the area. Also honored were Ed Singer

of Zanesville, Gerald Congrove of Frost and Harry Smith of Kilvert. Robert Mayle of Stewart was named the most consistent volunteer for the Kilvert Center.

Irene Flowers of Kilvert was named most outstanding woman. Runners up were Edna Norris, Stewart; Gertrude Congrove, Frost; and Helen Coe Walker of Guysville.

Contest winners and event participants named in the article were as follows: Garden Produce, Gail Denison family of Stewart and Irene Flowers of Kilvert; zucchini bread, Irene Flowers; music: "Lodi," an Athens County country music group; Jennifer Sheets and "Sweet Mountain Sounds," Meigs County bluegrass and folk music; Melvin Norris and his "Over The Hill Gang" of Vin-

cent and Zanesville square dance music; Wayne Powell of Albany, piano solo; square dance, Jimmy Toliver of Zanesville, Willie Jenkins, of Chesterhill and John Lucas of Guysville; Clogging, Gerald Congrove, 78 of Frost; breakdancing, Brian Mayle, Sharpsburg, Stacey Tate of Plantsville, and Andy and Brian Tabler of Kilvert; men's horseshoe pitching--Edward Conant and Leonard Tabler of Broadwell, Ronald Mayle of Bartlett and Ephraim Mayle of Sharpsburg. Women' horseshoe pitching--Pamela, Hazel and Lin Lucas of Stewart and Connie Mayle of Bartlett.

Sounds like the "good old days" were pretty good and fun for the whole family.

HISTORY TIDBIT: *There were 17 "Negro Newspapers" published prior to the Civil War.*

NEGRO DAY IS OBSERVED BY LOCAL CHURCH (1926) DISCUSSIONS AND NEGRO SONGS FEATURE SERVICE.

NELSONVILLE, Aug. 10.—Negro day was observed last Sunday by the congregation of the First Baptist church, with the earnest co-operation of the pastor, the Rev. A. B. Adams.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Adams, following the of "America." "The Negro in Religion" was the interesting subject discussed by Miss Pauline Woodson. She stressed the point that for the negro to progress they must have leaders from the southland, where three-fourths of the colored Baptist ministers originate.

The topic, "Negro," was discussed by Mrs. Vina Murray. She stated that segregation was advancing and that for this to be abolished, the negro race must get on its knees and pray. The negro spiritual, "Roll, Jordan, Roll," was sung by the congregation. The noble character of Phillis Wheatley was discussed by Mrs. Mary Woodson, who told how a negro girl in slavery arose to the highest point that any negro woman has ever attended.

Mrs. Josephine Saunders, accompanied by Mrs. Della Lewis, sang "It Pays to Serve Jesus." An essay by John How-

ard, preceded a reading. "Bishop Reverdy C. Ramson," given by Miss Anna Mae Corbert, The Life of Frederick Douglass was read by Miss Ethel Simpson. She stated that the future of the negro depends upon the generation of today. The program was closed by the Rev. James Mann of the A. M. E. Church, who urged the people to get the old time religion in their hearts. Other musical numbers included the spiritual, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," and a duet, "The Touch of His Hand on Mine," sung by Mrs. Ada Woodson and Mrs. Mary

Woodson. They were accompanied by Mrs. Beatrice Jones.

A large crowd was reported in attendance, and the congregation is grateful to those who joined in making the meeting a success.

HISTORY TIDBIT:

In 1798 "The Sons of the African Society" was formed in Boston for "the mutual benefit of each other, behaving at the same time as true and faithful Citizens of the Commonwealth in which we live."

Henry Sipkins, secretary.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS RELATED TO THE US COLORED TROOPS IN THE CIVIL WAR

From a presentation by Bennie J. McRae given at the Multicultural Genealogical Center In Chesterhill at its Membership Monthly Meeting, November 1, 2014.

1863

January 1 - President Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation. The document was directed only to the states that seceded from the Union. Slaves states that remained with the Union was not affected.

January 26 - The 1st South Carolina Volunteer Regiment (African Descent) engage the enemy at Township, Florida, shortly after being mustered in at Beaufort.

March 21 - Frederick Douglass issues a declaration, Men of Color, To Arms. He began to recruit troops, including his sons Charles and Lewis.

March 26 - The Secretary of War issued an order directing Adjutant General Lorenzo Thomas to organize black regiments in the Mississippi Valley.

March 30 - 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers mustered in to serve with the Union Army.

May 22 - The War Department established the Bureau of Colored Troops to handle the recruitment, organization, and service of the newly organized black regiments commanded by white officers.

May 22 thru July 8 - Battle of Port Hudson, Louisiana. In the Union forces were 2 Louisiana Native Guard and 6 Corps D'Afrique Regiments.

June 7 - Battle of Milliken's Bend, Louisiana. Union forces were 1250 contrabands recently mustered in the 9th and 11th Louisiana Colored Volunteer and the 1st Mississippi Colored Volunteer Regiments, and 160 whites from the 23rd Iowa Regiment. The battle fought mainly with bayonets and rifle butts was said to have been one of the bloodiest of the war. Hundreds were killed on both sides.

July 4 - Siege of Vicksburg ended.

July 13 - New York City draft riots - numerous Blacks were killed and others fled the city.

July 17 - Battle of Honey Springs (Elk Creek), Indian Territory, (Gettysburg of the West). 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Regiment fought with Union forces. Indian regiments fought on both sides.

1864

February 20 - Battle of Olustee (Florida). Heavy losses suffered by the Union forces that included the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers, the 8th and 35th United States Colored Infantry Regiments. The Union forces were defeated.

April 8 - Thirteenth Amendment passes the U.S. Senate by a vote of 38-6.

April 12 - Massacre of Union Soldiers, Black enlisted and White officers, at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

June 15 - Thirteenth Amendment falls short of the required two-thirds majority in the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 96-66.

June 15 - Beginning of the Siege of Petersburg.

July 8 - President Lincoln announces support of the Thirteenth Amendment.

September 29 - Battle of Chaffin's Farm (New Market Heights), Virginia. Twelve U.S. Colored Infantry Regiments and one Cavalry Regiment charged into battle. Thirteen men serving with the United States Colored Infantry Regiments were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

November 30 - Battle of Honey Hill, South Carolina. Participating were the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Volunteers, the 32nd, 35th, and 102nd U.S. Colored Infantry Regiments.

December 3 - The 25th Army Corps organized. (The first and only army corps made up of all-Black infantry regiments.)

December 6 - President Lincoln in the Annual Message to Congress requested reconsideration of the Thirteenth Amendment.

1865

January 1 - The U.S. House of Representatives began to debate the Thirteenth Amendment.

January 31 - Thirteenth Amendment passes the House of Representatives by a vote of 119-56.

March 4 - President Lincoln inaugurated.

March 31 - April 9 - Battle of Fort Blakely, Alabama and participating were 9 U.S. Colored Infantry Regiments plus 2 U. S. Colored Infantry Regiments serving as Engineer units.

Apr 2, 1865 - End of Petersburg Siege.

April 2 - Confederate government abandons Richmond, Virginia and the city is occupied by Union soldiers the next day.

April 9 - General Robert E. Lee surrenders to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia. Three of the 17 units that moved toward Appomattox from the west to block General Lee's army were U.S. Colored Infantry Regiments. Three other U. S. Colored Infantry Regiments were positioned in the rear. Thirty-six Black Confederates were paroled at Appomattox.

April 14 - President Lincoln was shot. He died the next day. Andrew Johnson became President.

May 12 - General O. O. Howard appointed to head the Freedman's Bureau.

December 18 - Thirteenth Amendment ratified after approval by twenty-seven states. (Delaware, Kentucky, New Jersey, and Mississippi rejected the amendment.)

The National Reformer stated in the 1800's,
"the elevation of the Negro depended less upon his
abilities than upon 'the improvement
of the white man's heart.'"

RESEARCHERS! CHECK OUT THE PERDREAU PAPERS

Among the many resources available at the Multicultural Genealogical Center are the Perdreau Papers, a vast collection of material gathered by Michele Perdreau over many years. The table of contents for the collection takes up 12 pages of listings and includes everything from people's correspondence to business entities, to churches, to educational institutions. Want to see an Albany Enterprise Academy Catalog? How about checking out Marian Anderson coming to Ohio University in 1960? You might be interested in the John H. Byrd letters from the 1850's or Black Seminoles, records of Blacks who came to Ohio from Virginia, Robert Deal Broadus, the Kilvert Community Center, the Nickens family, Samuel Lucas, the Payne Cemetery, Pearl Primus, Rendville, Nat Turner's family, or any of the other hundreds of topics available to you. Unfortunately, there simply isn't space enough in our Newsletter to list all of the possibilities.

Here is a sample explanation of the kinds of things available to you once you identify a subject you are interested in researching. This is found under the topic listed in the Table of Contents [topic](#) **"Campbell, Mary L. Champ":**

- Photostatic copy of page from November 7, 1891 paper The State Capital (Springfield, Illinois). Article appears to be exactly the same as the one below? [NOTICE HOW METICULOUS OUR ALL-VOLUNTEER STAFF HAS

BEEN ABOUT RECORDING EXACTLY WHAT THEY HAVE FOUND IN THE COLLECTION!]

- Two photocopied pages from Cleveland Gazette, September 5, 1891 (this may be incorrectly cited. See above), and two copies of typed transcript of the article. Mentions she is a native of Parkersburg, daughter of a former principal of the colored schools there, and wife of James E. Campbell.
- Typed letter of January 16, 1977, from Michel Perdreau to Superintendent, St. Peter's Cemetery, St. Louis, Mo. In which he requests information on Mary Campbell's tombstone. The handwritten response "Mary L. Campbell, beloved wife of W.C. Campbell" is at the bottom of the letter.
- Interoffice Communication dated May 17, 1985 from Michel Perdreau to Peter G. Kousaleos at Ohio University. Michel states that some additional information on James Campbell has been added to the Ohio University Library. Michel also says he is interested in co-authorship on Campbell
- Two photostatic copies of Certificate of Death for Mary L. Campbell from City of St. Louis
- Letter dated June 21, 1976 from W.E. Bigglestone, Archivist, Oberlin College, to Michel Perdreau to which is attached photocopied

information From Necrology for the year 1909-1910 for Mary Lewis Champ-Campbell, a former Oberlin student.

- Several pages of typed and handwritten notes to self, some with citations.
- Envelope with several (crumbling) sheets titled "Statistics of the Graduating Classes, Oberlin College, 1890". Statistics by students' names include: Age, weight, height, shoe size, complexion, favorite haunt, favorite expletive, nick name, and more.
- Envelope with photocopy of pages from Catalogue of the Kentucky Normal & Industrial Institute for Colored Persons for 1902-1903, and also for 1903-1904, and page from A History of the Kentucky Normal and Industrial Institute by Paul W. Jones. Each has a brief entry for Mary L. Campbell as Instructor
- Letter dated January 8, 1977 from Michel Perdreau to Probate Court, Washington County, Marietta, Ohio in which he asks for a copy of the marriage license for J.E. Campbell and Mary Lewis Champs issued on August 5, 1891. Attached is a response from a Deputy Clerk giving information on some local people who can do a commercial search for him.
- Letter dated November 19, 1977 from Michel Perdreau to Mr. W. E. Bigglestone, Oberlin College Archives. Perdreau's letter includes sources

and dates in an effort to clear up confusion about relationships in Mary Campbell's life

- Letter dated November 25, 1977 from Gertrude Jacob, Oberlin College Archives to Michel Perdreau detailing some of the confusion about Mary Lewis Champ Campbell's life.
- Letter dated January 15, 1978, from Michel Perdreau to Mr. W.E. Bigglestone, Oberlin College Archives giving information from several sources about Mary Campbell's life. It appears the widow Mary Campbell married a brother of her first husband.
- Letter dated January 23, 1978 from W.E. Bigglestone, Oberlin College Archives, to Michel Perdreau. Bigglestone thanks Perdreau for information he has supplied.
- Photocopy of several completed pages of a sort of survey sent "To Any Member of the family of the late Mrs. Mary C. Campbell" for brief biographical records published annually by Oberlin of graduates who have died during the year. It is not clear who filled out the information.
- Two copies of typed biographical information/notes on Mary Lewis Champ

Remember, this is material to be found on only 1 of hundreds of possible topics. Come in and check out this fantastic resource!

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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the study of multicultural people in Southeastern Ohio.

We also shared cultural information with the UNICEF and Fulbright Scholars. They have added a depth of information to us about what they experience in their cultures and wanted to know how we dealt with cultural issues in our country and to hear from everyday people of what it is like to live in America.

Yours truly attended a field trip to Amesville and an historic place in the Amesville, Athens County, Ohio, called "the Ewing Rock." In the 1800's, Thomas Ewing, Sr., found this place to go and practice his oratory skills. He was an early graduate of Ohio University and became Secretary of the Treasury under President William Henry Harrison, Secretary of the Interior under President Zachary Taylor and a U.S. Senator from Ohio, 1850-1851. Young Tom Ewing conquered the rock and his oratory skills. Yours truly, realizing that it was a "young" Tom and not a "senior" who would have to climb to the top of a rock that went almost 2 story straight up, had to have the help of Thomas O'Grady, who organized the trip. This "senior" eventually made it and stood in the footsteps of the boy who learned the skills of becoming a political leader.

MGC Volunteers are the BEST. Their support in doing the sundry jobs of a non-profit have been the glue that holds us together. We have had a marked loss in volunteers through death, moves and job demands. So the challenges have been finding people who can fill positions needed to do the work of a growing organi-

zation. We had to go from being open to the public every Saturday to "by appointment only." We just did not have the volunteers needed to be open consistently. We would like to be open more and would welcome volunteers.

We have had many contributions ranging from a copy of the "Green Book" for Black travelers in the 1930's-40's to the Presidential Doll of First Lady Michele Obama. It is important to point out that our genealogy and history collections are growing with the donations from the Perdreaus. The Perdreau collection inventory is 90% inventoried and can be looked at on a limited basis. (You can get a feel for what it contains in another article in this newsletter.) We recently added the Geraldine "Tootsie" Tabler collection of obituary programs, memorials, historic documents, family pictures, handwritten daily life event happenings in Tablertown, and much more. This collection is in the process of being inventoried, dated and named. It also can be used on a limited basis. We can now include four issues of the *Journal of Negro History* a publication founded by Carter G. Woodson, from Margaret Christians of Oberlin, Ohio

We thank all of our donors for your financial support this past year and donations of \$8519.77. We are here to learn about and share the voices of our ancestors; we have the responsibility of telling their stories and enlighten the world about their contributions to shaping America. We thank all of you who believe in our mission and have shown your support.

DISTORTED HISTORY

AND THE US COLORED TROOPS

By ADA WOODSON ADAMS

I came across an article on the history of early Maryland written by Rev. Theodore C. Gambrell and published by Thomas Whittaker, New York, in 1893.

Rev. Gambrell said, "In a very marked degree, Maryland history has suffered at the hands of its friends. Desiring to be just, and often truly enthusiastic, they have viewed its course in the direct light of their own prejudices, and the consequence has been a perverted, incomplete, unphilosophical presentation. To form a just estimate of the history of a people, a man must transplant himself into the days which he is describing."

Rev. Gambrell's words speak to some of the same issues we see in today's writing of Black history. For example, a recent article written about a PBS program talked about the African Americans in the Civil War in a disparaging way. (The article can be found at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/timeline/lincolns-soldiers/>.) Here is what it said:

September 29-30, 1864: Chaffin's Farm, Virginia

Positioned to block Confederate efforts to resupply Petersburg, Virginia, with men and material, soldiers from the 4th and 6th U.S. Colored Infantry joined white soldiers in an attack on Confederate fortifications at Chaffin's Farm, also known as New Market Heights. Although one arm of the assault succeeded, the rest was repulsed. Casualties were extremely heavy.

Out of an initial force of 1,300 men, African Americans suffered 455 casualties. ***High casualty rates were common for African American units -- usually for two reasons. First, since blacks had not previously served in the U.S. Army, they were inexperienced fighters. Second, feeling social pressure to prove themselves as men, they often took risks on the battlefield that their white counterparts would not.*** [Italics and bold-face mine.] Of the 180,000 African Americans who fought for the Union, 37,300 died. More than 20 African Americans were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's most prestigious military decoration. Fourteen of those men earned their medals at Chaffin's Farm.

Often times as we write about things we make mistakes or just plain get it wrong. Most writers want to be factual, and they want to be fair, but we all come with acquired points of view and an acquired way of describing situations. The article above has many inaccuracies. It was not social pressure to prove themselves as soldiers that drove the black soldiers. They were fighting for their race to be free and to be treated with equality. The black soldiers did not take unnecessary risks and usually served white leaders who determined what they could and should do at

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NAT TURNER'S SON LIVED IN ZANESVILLE

BY NANCY E. AIKEN, MICHEL S. PERDREAU AND ADA WOODSON ADAMS

During the early morning hours and the day of August 22, 1831, Nat Turner, a slave and a preacher, and several other slaves killed about 55 white men, women and children in Southampton County, Virginia. It was the most serious slave insurrection in the United States. The slaves were pretending to be out hunting, it being common for slaves to leave their homes to come together for a late night or early morning hunt. Thus, they were ignored by their victims until it was too late. By the next day the slave insurgents, which had swelled in number to about 50 or 60 mounted men, had been captured, killed or dispersed. Turner, alone, remained free. Although slave revolts were an ever-present danger in the slave holding states, the Nat Turner rebellion was of such a savage and large nature that fear spread throughout the south (Tragle, 1971). U.S. troops were sent from Fort Monroe and sailors from U.S. ships *Warren* and *Natchez* amounting to about 800 men. Volunteer companies from Richmond, Petersburg, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia, and some from North Carolina and militia companies from surrounding counties were sent to scour the Dismal Swamp where they thought two or three thousand blacks were ready to join the rebellion. Southampton County was paralyzed with whole plantations abandoned. However, the immediate danger for the whites was over and the vengeance against the blacks had begun. In the words of

one correspondent: "The massacre of the whites was over, and the white people had commenced the destruction of the negroes, which was continued after our men got there . . . by the latest accounts, 120 negroes had been killed". . . in one day" (Higginson, 1861: 6-7). Turner remained at large until Oct. 30, 1831, when he was captured near his home in Southampton County. He was tried November 5th and sentenced to death. He was hung at noon Nov. 11, 1831 (Tragle, 1971). Swiftly, throughout the south, laws were enacted forbidding Negroes to preach and to learn to read and write because Nat Turner was an educated preacher (See for example: Morris, 1985).

Nat Turner was born on the Benjamin Turner, Esq., plantation, one of the largest and oldest in Southampton County, 2 Oct 1800. His parents were of African descent. His mother told him he was born a prophet, preacher, and a deliverer of his race. His father escaped when Nat was a boy (Brown, 1863). His mother was a slave woman named Nancy who had landed in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1795 as the slave of a person fleeing the revolt in Saint Domingue. His father is unknown. Benjamin Turner encouraged Nat to read the Bible as did his paternal grandmother, Old Bridget, to whom Turner said he was very attached. When Samuel Turner, brother of Benjamin, purchased 360 acres a couple of miles from Benjamin's plantation in 1809, Benjamin loaned him Nancy, Nat, Old Bridget and five other slaves to

help him get his cotton plantation started. The loan became permanent in 1810 when Benjamin died (*Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, 2008). Benjamin's property became that of Samuel, who died in 1822 and left a will. In the will he mentions a slave named Nancy and "his two old negroes Tom and Bridget" who were to remain on the "Lot where they now are" (Southampton County, Virginia, Will Book 9, p. 134). The Richmond *Constitutional Whig* "reported that Nat Turner married a young slave woman; this may have been Cherry, who in 1822 was sold to Giles Reese when Samuel died . . . Turner was sold to Thomas Moore for \$400." In 1828 Thomas Moore died and Turner became the property of Moore's nine year old son, Putnam. The boy's mother then married Joseph Travis, a wheelwright, and Turner and the other 16 slaves on the Moore plantation came under the supervision of another new master (*Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, 2008). The 1830 census has Giles Reese with no male slaves under the age of 10 (Gilbert would have been about five or six-years-old.) He had two female slaves between the ages of 24-36 which would have been the right age group for Gilbert's mother. The next name in the census was Joseph Travis. He had one male slave under ten-years-old but none older than 24 and Nat should have been 30 at the time. The Reese and Travis plantations appeared from their listing in the census

to be next to each other.

Descendants of Nat Turner in Zanesville

A notice in the March, 1932 edition of the NAACP journal (p. 97) announced that the *Afro-American* had discovered that descendants of Nat Turner lived. The Reverend John Johnson, recently deceased pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Baltimore, was his grandson. According to this notice another grandson lived in Virginia and six granddaughters and eleven great-grandchildren were living in the Washington and Baltimore area. The author of this announcement apparently was unaware that a son of Nat Turner had made his way to Zanesville, Ohio and had a family there. His daughter, Lucy Mae Turner, wrote a history of this family which was published in the March, 1955 edition of *The Negro History Bulletin*.

Nat Turner's granddaughter, Lucy Mae Turner, most likely wrote from stories about the aftermath of the rebellion as recalled by her father, Gilbert, Nat Turner's son, who was only about seven-years-old in 1831. As Gilbert remembered it, all of the members of the Turner family were to be sold to the deep south. He remembered his mother, holding his baby sister, Melissa, and being sold on the auction block. His mother, Fannie, was sold to a planter named Yarborough from Alabama; it is assumed the baby went with her (Turner: 128) [The 1850 federal census has two men

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NAT TURNER'S SON LIVED IN ZANESVILLE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

named Yarborough who owned a female slave the approximate age Fannie would have been in 1850. Alfred Yarborough in Sumterville, Sumpter County, Alabama, owned about 65 slaves and among them was a 50-year-old female. George Yarborough in Warsaw, Sumpter County, Alabama, owned 16 slaves, one of whom was a 48-year-old female.] Deeply ingrained in Gilbert's memory were his mother's cries of goodbye to him as he was jerked upon the auction block. However, Gilbert's auction was stopped by a young woman who had \$500 to buy him as her wedding present from her father. "Miss Mary," as Gilbert called her, knew Nat Turner's owner and had come to Turner's church meetings in his cabin. According to Gilbert she had surreptitiously given Nat the only Bible he had ever owned. She had tried to calm Turner when he was so distressed over the beatings given his aged father, who had grown too weak to do the hard work that was expected, and the insults directed at his aged mother, who was reputed to be of royal African blood. Gilbert thought that "Miss Mary" had admired his father for his "noble character, his dreams, his faith in God, his love of his people—his hopes, his aspirations, his talents—all of which were dwarfed in this land of slavery and oppression" (Turner, 1955: 128).

Mary, last name unrecorded by Lucy, took Gilbert home as her house servant. She may have lived in Southampton County, Virginia, before her marriage. However, Gilbert called Farmville home, and

Farmville was in Prince Edward County, Virginia, a couple of counties west of Southampton. [Lucy wrote in an article about her family that Gilbert was born a slave in Farmville, Virginia (*Zanesville Signal*, 28 Dec 1944: 7).] Mary's husband was poor, but she came from a wealthy family. Her husband, whose name was not recorded by Lucy, was a lawyer and a planter. Mary's husband and sons joined the Confederate Army during the Civil War and took Gilbert with them as their servant. The eldest son was killed. When the war was over, Gilbert went back to the plantation, but Mary urged him to go north. Gilbert, nearly 40-years-old, took her advice, but he had no money. A Union troop train was headed to Ohio, and he was offered a seat on the train. He got off the train as soon as he was in Ohio. The first stop was Marietta where local black families provided him with food, shelter, and a job. Because he had experience working with iron as a slave, his job was in an iron foundry. He saved money, bought land in the center of town, and built himself a small home. In the early 1870s a major flood destroyed his home, so he moved to Zanesville where, he was told, there was no danger of flooding. He was sheltered there at first by Dr. McSimpson, and he found work at Mr. Blandy's iron foundry. Turner worked at the foundry for seven years until the foundry closed due to the death of the owner (Turner, 1955: 129-132).

While Gilbert was being paid good wages at the foundry, he saved his money. He bought a large brick house at

99 Eighth Street, furnished it stylishly, and found a wife (Turner, 1955: 132, 145). She was Sarah Ellen Jones, the thirty-year-old daughter of the Rev. Isaac Jones, who was the pastor of the Baptist Church in Putnam, adjacent to Zanesville. The couple's first child, Fannie, was named after Gilbert's mother (Gilbert said his mother's name was Fannie – not Nancy). Fannie was born in 1882. Their second child was born in 1884, and she was named Lucy after her grandmother Lucy Jones (Turner, 1955: 146). Twins, Gilbert and Gracie were born March 6, 1888, but they lived only a few weeks (Ohio Births and Turner, 1955: 146).

[TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT
EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER]

DISTORTED HISTORY

(CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 6)

any given moment in battle. Black soldiers fought bravely, gallantly and with distinction, as was commonly stated by their white commanders. There were 16 Congressional Medals of Honor for valor given to black soldiers and over 200,000 blacks served in the Civil War, not even counting all the laborers, cooks, etc.

Beginning in October of 1863, approximately 180,000 African-Americans, comprising 163 units, served in the U.S. Army, and 18,000 served in the Navy. That month, the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers repulsed a Confederate attack at Island Mound, Missouri. Men of the United States Colored Troops units fought gallantly and went on to distinguish themselves on numerous battlefields.

For example, on May 27, 1863, at the Battle of Port Hudson, Louisiana, the African American soldiers bravely advanced over open ground in the face of deadly artillery fire. On July 17, 1863, at Honey Springs, Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, the 1st Kansas Colored fought with courage again. Union troops under General James G. Blunt ran into a strong Confederate forces under General Douglas H. Cooper. After a two-hour bloody engagement, Cooper's soldiers retreated. The 1st Kansas, which had held the center of the Union line, advanced to within fifty paces of the Confederate line and exchanged fire for some twenty minutes until the Confederates broke and ran. General Blunt wrote after the battle, "I never saw such fighting as was done by the Negro regiment. . . . The question that Negroes will fight is settled; besides, they make better soldiers in every respect than any troops I have ever had under my command."

African Americans constituted 10% of the entire Union Army by the end of the war, and nearly 40,000 died during the course of the war.

For further reading, go to
<http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/faq/>
and
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/African_American_Military_Records

General Blunt wrote:

"I never saw such fighting as was done by the Negro regiment. . . . The question that negroes will fight is settled; besides they make better soldiers in every respect than any troops I have ever had under my command."

FINDING YOUR ROOTS: DR. HENRY LOUIS GATES

BY AMY (NICHOLS) REID, IRITA (GOINS) CANADY AND RHONDA (COOK) TABLER



The Gathering

Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., a popular social critic, author and host of the award-winning *Finding Your Roots* program on PBS Television. He came to Philippi, West Virginia, in September 2014 to learn about and film the Mayle/Male extended families and his ancestors. Through DNA he has learned that he is related to our Mayle/Male/Mayhle family, but exactly how is not yet known.

"Bernard Mayhle's many years of documented research and numerous family photos, which he has so graciously shared with our families made this event possible." The filming took place at the Philippi fairgrounds and on site at the old Croston School and in the nearby Welch Cemetery.

The episode, which explores the host's Mayle-Male family connections in West Virginia and Ohio originally aired nationwide on Nov. 25, 2014. It can be viewed online at "Finding Your Roots."

RIGHT:
Irita (Goins) Canady
and Dr. Gates

PHOTOS BY AMY
(NICHOLS) REID
AND MARK MINER
@MINERD.COM

BELOW: Camera and Sound Crew record an interview last September between Rhonda (Cook) Tabler and Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



OUR CONTACTS WITH THE CHAMBERS FAMILY

BY EMILIE WOOD

In June 1954, we moved to Mt. Gilead, N. C. My husband, Bill, had just finished the course work for his PhD and had accepted a short-term archeology job at nearby Town Creek Indian Mound while trying to work on his dissertation. Mt. Gilead was a small, conservative town and the majority of the people were pretty upset about the recent Supreme Court decision on segregated school, but we soon found that there was a minority who agreed with us that the decision was a good thing. Although we were not out of step with everyone, we never felt completely comfortable there.

In spite of the local culture, we did get to know a black man, "Shine" Chambers. He owned a gas station and garage and had the reputation of being an outstanding mechanic. He took good care of our old car. One time he asked Bill to come over and talk with his son, Julius, a college student, about graduate school. I don't know how much influence Bill had, but Julius did eventually go to the University of Michigan for a masters in history, and then to the University of North Carolina for a law degree.

By that time, we had moved on, but my parents in Charlotte sent us newspaper clippings about Julius Cham-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

A PIECE OF OUR HISTORY IS IN DANGER!



MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH LONG AGO

One hundred and ten years ago in 1905 it was noted in the *Athens Messenger* that ground was broken for the new African-American church on the corner of Congress and Carpenter Streets. The church was to be constructed of cement block and trimmed with Bedford limestone. It was to be modern in its appointment, having a tower, main auditorium, lecture room, pastor's study, choir room, and baptistery over a basement of 57x46 feet. It was stated in the article that several elegant art windows had been ordered. Of course, the church was built and has long been known as The Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Unfortunately, the church has not been used for some time now and has fallen into disrepair. Thanks to the efforts a number of years ago of Dr. Francine Childs, the Gospel Voices of faith and the citizenry of Athens County, the elegant art (stain glass windows have been largely preserved because of a shield they mounted on the outside of the windows to protect them). Now, even they are in grave danger.

For the past ten years the building has been unattended. One person summed up the condition of the building say-

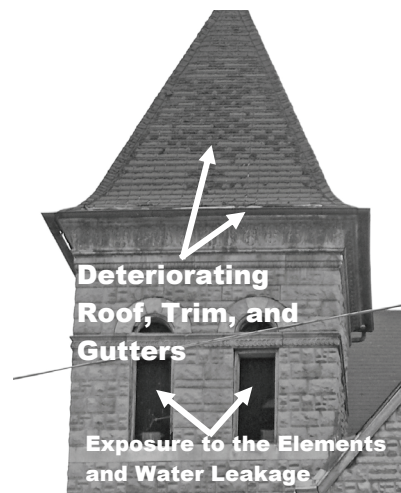
ing, "the pews are covered with rat and bird droppings, dust, and spider webs, and there is broken glass, used condoms (UGH!!!!), rotten food, and I can't remember what all, left by thoughtless intruders while the church has been vacant . . . I couldn't help but wondering what past members would say or think about the hopes and dreams of all those people over the past century who sat in these very pews in worship, gazing at those lovely stained glass windows and lifting their voices in song. This church is too special to let it slip away."

A group of concerned

citizens has organized to save this historic site. Many of them have a direct attachment to the church. Some were members and were baptized there, some were married there or a family member was an officer or a choir member. Many know of friends and neighbors who got their training as pastors there. We too think this place is far too special to lose.

If, you want to be added to the list of concerned citizens and help us fight to save this great piece of Black history, send your contact information to Ada Woodson Adams at adams1803@gmail.com.

MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH TODAY!



IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SAVE THIS BUILDING AND TO RESTORE IT TO ITS FORMER BEAUTY. HOWEVER, IT WILL TAKE THE EFFORTS OF A LOT OF PEOPLE, TIME, MONEY, AND COMMITMENT. PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN TO HELP US SAVE THIS HISTORIC STRUCTURE!



MGC

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SCHOLARSHIP WINNER BY RON LUCE

Charlie Cobb, a Federal Hocking High School graduate was one of the individuals who received the Scripps School of Journalism "Alvin C. Adams, Jr. Scholarship.

Volunteers at the Multicultural Genealogical Center guided her through her high school project: creating a family tree going back six generations!

Congratulations, Charlie!

RESEARCHING BLACK HISTORY AND GENEALOGY

BY ADA WOODSON ADAMS

When you hear the words today that "Black Genealogy is hard to trace," it makes me think of how brainwashed we are. Even though I am not up on all the latest technological tools, I do know that they are available. The Black media of the past documented a great many of the stories relating to people we would like to know about and there are many modern researchers who have done a great deal of work too. Even though the white media didn't often tell the stories of average black people, they often printed negative material which can give us some clues about black history, people's families, and their life experiences. Sometimes just getting names and timeframes in which events happen can lead us to information we need.

In the following, I offer some resources that might be of assistance to those wishing to do research.

Just reading ads in various publications can give us clues about the Black experiences. For example, In looking at a June 1917 *Crisis Magazine*, (vol. 14, No. 2), I found an advertisement for *The Journal of Negro History*, published quarterly, 100 Pages, edited by Carter G. Woodson. The ad states that *The Journal of Negro History* "is the official organ of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which is now trying not to promote an isolated research into the history of the black race but to show how civilization has been influenced by contact with the people of color. This publication aims to

popularize the movement to save and make available the scattered historical materials bearing on the Negro. In it appear scholarly articles and valuable documents giving information generally unknown. It is concerned with facts, not with opinions. Subscription price, \$1.00 per year. Foreign subscriptions, 25 cents extra. Single numbers, 25 cents; 30 cents by mail. Checks should be made payable to *The Journal of Negro History* and addressed to Carter G. Woodson, 1216 You St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Two other advertisements are of interest: One is for "Alain Leroy Lock, the University Literary Bureau: Poems, Short Stories, Novels, Scenarios, Magazine and Press Articles, Sermons.

Box 102, Howard University, Washington, D.C. "Another states that "The Colored Teachers' Bureau Will Help You Get A Better Paying Position. Register Now. Reasonable Terms. Address: Colored Teachers' Bureau, Box 22, Wilberforce, O."

These ads give a lot of information. They name organizations, people, places and provide clues on where you can find black writers, teachers, books about and written by blacks and much more.

One ad led me to look up more about T. G. Steward and found he had written several books. They are free online. The books have a wealth of information about the black experience. Here is what the ad said: "The Haitian Revolution by Chaplain T. G. Steward, U. S. Army, retired, is selling

among all classes of Americans and from the largest book stores in the country. It has also met with favor in Haiti. *Le Nouvelliste* of Port-au-Prince says of it:

'A book to read. It is regrettable that it should be in English, as its perusal would be of the greatest profit to all Haitians.' In a prefix to the translation of the introduction the editor says: 'In order to give a view of the importance of this remarkable book which ought to be widely circulated in Haiti we give a translation to the introduction.' Extract from letters of General Legitime, the distinguished publicist and author, and former president of Haiti: 'In the production of this book you have performed a work of the highest literary and moral value.' Later, after some translations had been published, he wrote: 'The persons who have read this translation are enchanted with its revelations. They are all enthusiastic in your praise and recognize in you a true

philanthropist and a sincere friend of Haiti.' From a Haitian lady speaking of the book: 'Finding it so sincerely consistent with the events which gave us birth as a people who without invitation dared to enter the council of nations I am desirous of expressing my thanks.' Price \$1.25 *Order of any bookseller or from the author*, T. G. Steward, Wilberforce, Ohio.

With some research, I learned that Steward had fifty years in the gospel ministry from 1864 to 1914, twenty-seven years in the pastorate; sixteen years' active service as chaplain in the US Army; seven years as a professor at Wilberforce University; and made two trips to Europe and a trip to Mexico:

One of his books is *The Colored Regulars in the United States Army* (1904). That book has a "Sketch of the History of the Colored American, and an Account of His Services in the Wars of the Country, from the Period of the Revolutionary War to 1899."

(SEE PAGE 12 FOR A LIST OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS!)

HISTORY CHALLENGE:

Who said this?

"Once we let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, 'U.S.', let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship."

If you think you know the answer, send us an email at

adams1803@gmail.com

RESEARCHING BLACK HISTORY AND GENEALOGY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

The Multicultural Genealogical Center is about the business of researching, documenting, preserving and sharing histories of those whose voice has historically not been heard in the mainstream... As researchers of Indigenous and Black American history it is imperative that we document and tell their history in the voices of those who lived it.

We want to find, preserve and disseminate the words as spoken or written by our ancestors about life as they lived or thought about it.

The internet is a great place to look for voices from the past. Keep in mind that the internet is a tool and is not always accurate. We still need to look for primary source to document what we find.

The internet has historic documents online, including newspapers, books, speeches, first-person narratives and more. Thus, we have access to actual words spoken and written by and about people we wish to understand; we must give those voices a platform and their due place in history and document their contributions to this country.

Keep in mind, site listed below are tools and a good genealogist and/or historian will need to dig further to get the whole story.

Native American:

- <http://nativeheritageproject.com/what-is-the-native-heritage-project/>
- <http://www.nedoba.org/>
- <http://scuffalong.com/author/lyhend/>
- <http://ncfpc.net/category/native-american/>
- <http://lumbeeindiansandgoinsfamily.blogspot.com/2007/12/patrick-county-virginia-early-records.html>
- <http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/collections/rmccollections.html>

Black History:

- http://www.blacknews.com/directory/black_african_american_newspapers.shtml
- <http://www.accessible-archives.com/collections/african-american-newspapers/the-christian-recorder/#ixzz3Me9fxoeE>
- <http://dehistory.org/preachers-of-the-wordhttp://libguides.marist.edu/c.php?g=87271&p=562028>
- <http://www.journalpatriot.com> North Wilkesboro, NC, 336-838-4117.
- Unique family's deep roots in Wilkes reflected in cemetery.
http://www.journalpatriot.com/news/other/article_6e0755c2-50fd-11e1-b5f1-0019bb30f31a.html
- *Historical African American Newspapers Available Online: Chronology:*
<http://libguides.marist.edu/c.php?g=87271&p=562076#8512287>
- This site is extremely good for looking at historic newspapers: Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1836-1922 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83025784/>
- This site may not be available to all. It is accessed through your local library. Go to site and see what is offered, it may be worth your while to sign in. <http://www.readex.com/content/african-american-newspapers-1827-1998>
- Great source of black history and black writers: <http://www2.ku.edu/~phbw/collections.html>
- <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006720046> Colored American Magazine
- <http://www.blackpast.org/bibliography/101-african-american-novels> An excellent sources of general information for research on African American History.
- <http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesmarshallcrotty/2012/02/18/10-african-american-authors-everyone-should-read/> Ten African-American Authors Everyone Should Read
- <http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/workers/civil-rights/crisis/0900-crisis-v16n05-w095.pdf> A pdf of The Crisis Magazine 1918
- <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aohtml/exhibit/>
- Who's who of the colored race; a general biographical dictionary of men and women of African descent. Who's who of the Colored Race: A General Biographical Dictionary . . . , Volume 1 (Free online through Ebook Free)
- http://scua.library.umass.edu/duboisopedia/dok.php?id=about:brownies_book Brownies' Book: Du Bois had long worried that African American children had no place to turn in the mainstream media for stories about members of their race. With most of the children's literature of the day produced by white authors for white children, Du Bois wanted to offer an alternative: a magazine written by black authors for black children. In January 1920 the first issue of *The Brownies' Book* was produced by Du Bois and Dill, publishers, and made available to subscribers at \$1.50 a year

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

(BLACK HISTORY AND GENEALOGY)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

or 0.15 an issue. With Du Bois serving as the magazine's editor and Augustus Granville Dill as its business manager, Jessie Redmon Fauset contributed to overseeing much of the content as its managing editor. *The Brownies' Book* included short stories, poetry, biographical sketches of prominent African Americans, puzzles, beautiful illustrations, and a monthly column from Du Bois, "As the Crow Flies." Readers were encouraged to make submissions to the magazine in a feature called "The Jury," where letters from children were printed, and parents were encouraged to submit photographs of their babies. The magazine was well received by the young readership, but unfortunately was not able to gain enough subscriptions to secure its fate. In Dec 1921, after twenty-four issues, *The Brownies' Book* ceased publication. The Library of Congress' Rare Book and Special Collections Division provides online access to all but the last issue of the *Brownies' Book*. Or one can choose to download the available issues as one large PDF file (351MB).

**OUR CONTACTS
WITH THE
CHAMBERS FAMILY**
(CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 9)

**SEEKING EQUALITY PRIOR TO
THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION**

BY RON LUCE

bers' achievements. In law school, he was editor-in-chief of the law review and first in his class. After graduation he opened a law practice in Charlotte. Eventually he was responsible for the law suit to desegregate the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system by bussing, which went all the way to the Supreme Court. As a result of his law work, there were bombings, including his law office and his father's gas station.

Julius Chambers later became Chief Counsel for the N.A.A.C.P. and still later president of North Carolina Central University, the formerly all black state school where he received his undergraduate degree. He died in 2013 after this illustrious civil rights career.

One can only wonder what "Shine" Chambers might have accomplished if he had had the same opportunities as his son.

As a part of my experience being a member of the Multicultural Genealogical Center, I have pushed myself to learn more about the African-American/Black experience and about the history of the struggle for Blacks to gain equality with the dominant culture in this country. It has been a real eye-opener to try to understand the world from the black perspective.

I have read many books and articles and have studied to be able to work with my good friend Ada Woodson Adams and the other members of the MGC delivering Underground Railroad Tours, talks about Black History, and to better serve the organization. My goal is to share some of that learning in the Newsletter when space allows.

One of the things I have done is put together a timeline of activities (up to the time of the Emancipation Proclamation) where people (both Black and White) took actions to try to break through the ugliness of slavery and do something about it. This list goes on for many pages, so I'll share part of the list now and more later. Certainly it is not exhaustive, but I know I was exhausted after trying to get all the pieces

I could find in a single list. I know, for example, that there were individuals who made bold attempts through force to secure their freedoms. Denmark Vesey (Vesey Rebellion of 1822) comes quickly to mind as one who makes a very interesting story, one that contributes to the history of Blacks trying to overcome the horrors of slavery. However, I did not try to find all of those stories or include them in this list. The list tends to be largely about organizations that tried to work within the "system" to achieve equality.

I was saddened, but not surprised, that the valiant efforts of blacks to achieve equality through working the system was constantly thwarted by White America that (as a whole) had no intentions of considering Blacks equal, no matter how they tried. It would take bloodshed to finally create a realistic hope that one day things might change. I am further saddened that here I am in the year 2015 and we still haven't fully arrived at a true equality among the races.

I hope you find this quick history in note form to be of interest:

1775: Among whites, formal American Antislavery groups

were formed as early as 1775, but blacks were not allowed to take part. They were largely "gradualists," meaning the leaders did not see freedom coming quickly and expected blacks to be patient.

- Advised negroes to "bear and forbear"
- Avoided passionate denunciations or reciting atrocity stories
- Avowed plans of a pacific nature
- Opposition to slaveholders was opposition to a brother rather than to an enemy.

1775: "Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery admitted only one Negro from 1775 to 1859, the light-skinned Robert Purvis" (Quarles, 12)

1787: US Constitution, includes provisions about "unfree persons."

1788: Free African Society of Philadelphia denied membership to anyone with the drinking habit. Deep roots of temperance impulse in Negro society.

1793: Fugitive Slave Act. Offended popular sense of fair play. Freedom Seeker

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)



BOOKS

MGC PUBLICATIONS FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE!

Heritage Cookbook, Vol. 1

\$15.00

A collection of recipes that are reflective of heritage, culture and just plain goodness. Many cooking tips are collected in this publication. 8 1/2 x 11 coated soft cover, spiral bound. 110 pgs.

Heritage Cookbook, Vol. 2

\$15.00

Cookbook recipes were submitted by MGC members and friends as old family recipes, sometimes with family stories about the dish, and other historical recipes, with tips and historical treats. 8 1/2 x 11 coated soft cover, spiral bound. 110 pgs.

As Long as Hearts Remember: Tributes to Our Late Loved Ones

\$25.00

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, cover the Civil Rights protests in the south, interview Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, help found the Multicultural Genealogical Center, and have a dormitory named after him at Ohio University. 6 1/2 x 9 soft bound, perfect binding. 164 pgs. With pictures.

Hold Tight to the Hames

\$25.00

Edited by Alvin C. Adams, the original poems, stories, photographs, and obituaries which serve as tributes to deceased family members form not only lasting memorials but important historical testaments to the contributions made by families of the area. 8 1/2 x 11 soft bound, perfect binding. 175

A Significant Presence: A Pictorial Glimpse of the Black Experience in Athens County, Ohio

\$25.00

Compiled and written by Ada Woodson Adams and Nancy E. Aiken, this is the story told with many photographs of a glimpse of the accomplishments of blacks in Athens County, Ohio, as Ohio University students, professionals, laborers, businessmen and women, activists, athletes, and pioneers. A number of these accomplishments had impact on a national and, even an international scene. 8 1/2 x 11 coated soft cover, saddle stitched. 60 pgs. Hundreds of photographs.

The Sandusky-Muskingum Indian Trail in Southeastern Ohio 1786-1807

\$15.00

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. 8 1/2 x 11 spiral bound, coated soft cover. Approximately 140 pages.

To order books, send check or money order to: MGC, PO Box 125 • Chesterhill, OH 43728

Please add \$5.00 per book for shipping and handling.



Multicultural Genealogical Center

P.O. Box 125, Chesterhill, Ohio 43728

MGC's first President, Stephen Smith, talked about a Newsletter to the membership. He also talked about how we need to grow MGC. He stated that "the easiest way to grow is to ask everyone who is a member to rejoin and also get at least one other person to join us".

MEMBERSHIP FORM-2015

(Please Print Clearly)

Your Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone (including area code): _____ Email: _____

Dues: Please check one of the following: ☐ Renewal ☐ New

Please put an "X" before the appropriate membership category:

☐ Annual Student membership: \$6	☐ Annual Regular Individual membership : \$15
☐ Annual Senior membership (age 50 and up): \$10	☐ Lifetime Membership per individual: \$200
☐ Annual Organization or Sponsor membership: \$100	☐ Lifetime Organization or Sponsor membership: \$500

I am interested in further supporting the MGC by (check all that apply)

☐ Serving as a Board member	☐ Serving as a Webpage designer
☐ Keeping the webpage up to date	☐ Presenting a program at one of the monthly meetings
☐ Volunteering to work in the Center doing clerical, data entry or helping others research	☐ Donating copies of my family tree/family history data, family pictures, videos, etc.
☐ Working on a committee to compile data from primary public sources.	☐ Sharing my experiences with students
☐ Conducting short training session(s) on how to gather family history	☐ Conducting workshops on organizational make-up and/or policy
☐ Participating in Underground Railroad programs as a guide or speaker	☐ Making a donation to "The Old House" Building Fund in the amount of: \$ _____
☐ Making a General Donation of \$ _____	

MGC is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit organization and any donation beyond membership dues is tax deductible

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Ada Woodson Adams, President, 740-554-3257 (MGC), 740 448-1305 (home), adams1803@gmail.com
Ron Luce, Secretary, 740-517-8647 (cell), 740-594-2442 (home), luce_r@live.com

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:
\$ _____

Return application along with your check made out to MGC to: Multicultural Genealogical Center, P.O. Box 125, Chesterhill, Ohio 43728

Membership Meetings are held at the Center on the first Saturday of each month at 1PM. No meetings in January, July, or September. The Center is located in Chesterhill, Morgan County, Ohio. The Center is on the corner of where routes 377 and 555 intersect. There is parking with disability accessibility at the back of the Center. For updated information on our meetings please visit us on Facebook under MGC (Multicultural Genealogical Center) of Chesterhill:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/35120173521/>

MAJOR EVENTS ON THE ROAD TO THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

could be taken by anyone satisfying a judge that he owned the Freedom Seeker. There was no trial or witnesses.

1798: The Sons of the African Society is formed in Boston for "the mutual benefit of each other, behaving at the same time as true and faithful Citizens of the Commonwealth in which we live." Henry Sipkins, secretary.

1799: New York state legislature passed gradual emancipation act covering slaves born after that year.

1808: Law goes into effect abolishing foreign slave trade.

1816: African Methodist Epis-

copal Church, in its Book of Discipline, denied membership to slaveholders.

1817: American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Color in the United States (American Colonization Society); Committee of 12 (Opposed to colonization)

1817: New York legislation extended slave emancipation to cover those born before July 4, 1799, stipulating that they were to become free as of July 4, 1827.

1821: New York State constitutional convention decreed that before a Negro could vote, he had to own \$250 worth of landed

property. Ignored protest from 50 Negroes.

1826: Massachusetts General Colored Association (David Walker made an "appeal" to militant action)

1826: Amherst College graduated Edward Jones; Bowdoin College awarded degree to John B. Russwurm.

1827: African Educational and Benevolent Society formed with Lewis Woodson presiding.

1827: New York, Mutual Relief Hall, mid-April, group head by William Hamilton and Thomas L. Jennings recommended that Negro churches hold services of prayer and thanksgiving on July 4 (when slaves

were to be emancipated).

Most blacks preferred to celebrate on the 5th instead. Sojourner Truth among those emancipated.

1829: The Temperance Society of the People of Color of New Haven is founded.

1829: The New York City Temperance Society founded by black abolitionists.

1830: Group of New York blacks name a burial society after Elias Hicks a Friend worthy of their esteem: The New York African Hicks Association"

1830: Colored Conventions movement begins bringing together Negro leaders from Northern states.

[TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THENEWSLETTER]



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