

Genealogical News

**A Quarterly Publication of the Multicultural Genealogical Center,
Chesterhill, Ohio**

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MGC Applies for 501(c)(3)

MGC has taken another step forward. We have filed with the Internal Revenue Service an application for a 501(c)(3) status.

This is the special status for non-profit organizations that allows donors to take a tax deduction on their personal income taxes for contributions to the 501(c)(3) organization. If we are granted the status, you can deduct on your income tax filing,

the value of any donations to MGC

Already we have been blessed with many donations, ranging from financial contributions to the special Kilvert Church pew fund to contributions of valuable materials for our Research Center. The latest donation in this latter category is several hundred documents and manuscripts contributed to MGC by Athens County resident Mary Bowman.

Getting 501(c)(3) approval will prove even more beneficial as we work toward the dream of our own building to house the Research Center and a museum. Obviously such a goal is going to require more than "bake sale"-sized donations. In other words, "big bucks". Most donors would consider making contributions of this magnitude only if they can get a tax break for their generosity.

This "giant step" has

been a long time coming. In fact, it was on our wish list from the time we created MGC in 2000. Both the high cost of legal help and the complex set of paper work held us back this long.

We are indebted to Nancy Aiken, our newest MGC board member, for getting us moving on this project. She volunteered to guide us through the complicated application form, compiled data

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Multicultural Genealogical Center Board Members

Al Adams, President

Sherry Walker, Vice President

Rhonda Tabler, Secretary

Ada Woodson Adams

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Nancy Aiken

Robert Augustus Busby

My great grandfather Robert Augustus Busby was born a slave in 1822 in Kanawha County, West Virginia which at the time was western Virginia. He was the son of Matthew (1799) and Milly (1804-3/7/1873, and brother of Stephen, Matthew, Converse, and William who were also born in slavery. The other siblings, James, Anna Oliver and Samuel were born in Athens County, Ohio after 1836. It is not known if the Busby family was set free or ran away to Ohio. However, Robert was still in slavery at the time the Civil War broke out.

At the time of his death, the notice in the Benton Harbor, Michigan newspaper dated March 27, 1914 gave this account: "Robert was born a slave on a plantation in West Virginia. His parents were the chattels of a wealthy tobacco planter. When the war broke out, his master went into the rebel service and took Robert along as his servant. After a short time with the "Johnnies" Busby managed to escape. He made his way North to Nashville where he joined up with the "16th U.S. Colored Troops". He was actually mustered into the service at the age of 44 on February 16, 1865 at Marietta, Ohio although he saw two or more years of hard service in the Union ranks in and around Nashville. His brother, Stephen, while living in Benton Harbor served in the Civil War with the 102nd,

company A, U. S. Colored Troops (Colored Men of Michigan).

Robert had 21 children by at least three (3) wives. The 1870 Lee Township, Athens County, Ohio census list his at the age of 48 living with wife Harriet 33, children Delilah 15, Joseph 11, Corinthia 9, James A. 6, Mary 6, Flora J. 4 and Rebecca 1. He had five (5) children by Harriet and possibly his first wife that were living with him and his third wife Frances in the 1880 Benton Harbor census. He married Frances Wiley, daughter of Woody Wiley on April 17, 1873 in Athens County, Ohio. When one of those five (5) children, Anna, died in the early 1880's her mothers name on her death certificate was Anna, born in West Virginia.

Robert and Frances had eight (8) children. A daughter Melissa, born in Nelsonville, Ohio on February 25, 1876 was my paternal grandmother.

The Robert Busby family moved to Benton Harbor, Michigan sometime between 1873 and 1880. They appear on the 1880 Berrien County, Michigan census. Robert worked as a laborer and lived in Benton Harbor until he died on March 27, 1914 at the age of 92 of chronic nephritis. In Benton Harbor he was known as Uncle Bob. He was one of the organizers of the Second Baptist Church on Eighth Street where he served

for many years as a deacon and trustee. He was known for his singing the song "Amazing Grace" as he walked up and down the aisles of the church.

At the time of his death, the total value of his property was \$600. The property consisted of two cook stoves, one heating stove, 10 chairs, one dresser, one wash tub, and 15 chickens. His son James was the executor.

Melissa Busby married Rev. Moses Easley in Benton Harbor on May 5, 1905. They moved to Chicago where my father Robert W. Easley was born. They later returned to Benton Harbor, Michigan. Robert Easley left Michigan and settled in Olena, New York.

Sources of information was obtained from census records 1840-1910, military records, birth, marriage, death certificates, city directories, will of Robert Busby and personal family interviews.

Madeline O. Scott

HeritageQuest Online

New at the Washington County Public Library web site (www.wcplib.lib.oh.us) is remote patron access to one of our subscription databases, HeritageQuest Online. This means that with a library card and Internet access from home you can access anything that you could if you came into the library and used HeritageQuest Online at one of the patron computers, which of course you still can do.

On the library's home page, scroll down to Databases. Click on HeritageQuest Online just above where it says "In Home Access Allowed". A screen comes up that says, "Remote Patron, Authentication". You are asked to select a library. Choose "Washington County Library". Type in your library card number (bar code number). When you are totally finished with your session, click on "finished".

What can you access? There are digital images of all the U. S. Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1930 except 1900. Every entry for indexed years is sorted by different criteria, particularly 1870 and 1910. By searching for birthplace, ethnicity, or age as well as name, you can maybe limit your John Smith in the 1870 census who was born in 1943 in Delaware among all those identical names. You can also search by state, county, and even township or town.

You can also search the Genealogy & Local History Collection on HeritageQuest by people, by places, or by publications. This is a collection of more than 25,000 books, searchable by every word. They can be downloaded and copied. They were digitized from the ProQuest microfilm collection, which was assembled from a number of sources, including the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Widener Library at Harvard University, the New York Public Library, the Sutro Library in San Francisco, the University of Illinois, and others.

Ernest Thode

Article originally published 2/26/03 in the Marietta Times. Published in part in this newsletter

Submitted by J. Walker

501(c)(3) (cont'd from page 1)

from the various sources, and assembled the final package. Treasurer Mildred Vore aided tremendously in the gathering of data. I, too, was able to contribute—from our records—some important data.

Of course, automatic approval does not follow the filing. The IRS will look the application over very carefully before giving us an answer. We need to keep our fingers crossed for a little while yet. But perhaps by the end of the year we'll be able to offer that special tax incentive to those who wish to help us in even bigger ways that they have done in the past.

Al Adams

MGC Heritage Cookbook Volume II & "As Long As Hearts Remember"

This is the last call for items for the MGC Heritage Cookbook Volume II. We need stories and photos besides recipes. If you were not represented in Volume I, please submit something for Volume II. The deadline is September 1, 2003. We hope to have the books ready in November.

MGC is also publishing "As Long As Hearts Remember", a tribute to our deceased loved ones. Included in this booklet

will be poems, essays and thoughts written to those who remain with us only in memory of those passed. Pictures and obituaries can also be included.

The deadline for these items to be submitted is July 30, 2003. Be sure to have your loved one represented.

Publications Committee
Nancy Aiken, Chairperson

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Reunions

Osmer & Elzina Mayle Family & Friends
Saturday, June 14, 2003
"Old" Cutler Ball Diamond
Cutler, Ohio

Mayle Reunion
Sunday, July 20, 2003
Pennsville, Ohio

Marietta Day
Sunday, July 27, 2003
Marietta, Ohio

Kennedy Reunion
Saturday, August 2, 2003
Belpre, Ohio

Dalton & Parsons Reunion
Sunday, August 3, 2003
Belpre, Ohio

Stevens Reunion
Saturday, August 9 & Sunday, August 10
Camp Hervida, Watford, Ohio

Barnett Ridge
Saturday, August 16, 2003
Fleming, Ohio

Tabler Reunion
Sunday, August 31, 2003
Kilvert Center, Kilvert, Ohio

**MGC Meeting Speaker:
June 10, 2003**

**Dr. William Jones
Topic: Slavery**

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.