

Genealogical News

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

Volume 3 Issue 1

March 2003

MCG's Goal to Educate & Recognize Diverse Heritage

As president of MGC I often am called upon to make talks about the organization. It is one of the more pleasant "duties" of the office.

I've been privileged to make two Dr. Martin Luther King speeches to Zanesville audiences, the most recent being at the ninth annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast in January.

Other talks have included presentations to an Appalachian Conference in Jackson County, Ohio, the Washington County chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, and several other groups interested in local history. Some groups are interested in neither history nor genealogy, but do want to help spread the ideals MGC represents.

These invitations offer an opportunity to help fulfill one of MGC's goals: to educate members, visitors, and the public about the lives, roles, and contributions of our families and traditions to American society. I believe these presentations also help the organization to reach another goal: to promote and improve, through community and educational programs, public perception and recognition of the region's diverse, multicultural heritage.

I'm always amazed that anyone planning a program wants to subject an audience to the ordeal of listening to me; but, thankfully, every audience has been receptive to our message. We often benefit by listeners coming to MGC meetings, becoming

members and—on more than one occasion—donating money to special MGC projects.

I've enjoyed every audience. Two ever more than most, because of the opportunity to showcase some of the talent that exists among MGC members.

One is the annual **Community and Campus Day at Ohio University** that MGC co-sponsors. The goodwill this event has generated between the University and those of us who live all around the campus is simply phenomenal. It is great to have people at one of the nation's top colleges study, admire and appreciate the heritage of "common folk".

Multicultural Genealogical Center

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Wanted To Say.....

To Madge Carter

Who died February 3, 2003

But took the time to spend a few hours with me. And share part of her life history with me.

Wanted to come see you again.. but now it is too late,

Wanted to get there and see the quilt; the pictures... but now it is too late.

Wanted to have you tell me again about the theater... but now it is too late.

Wanted again to hear your oh, so soft voice... but now it is too late.

Wanted you to know how much I valued the time we shared... but now it is too late,

Wanted to see your faint smile as you remembered fondly a little black girl... but now it is too late.

Wanted to say how much you touched my life... but now it is too late.

Like the little girl you remembered talking to as a child of 8 or 9, she in front of the old Yocum store in Chesterhill and you in your yard across the street. You said hello and she said hello and you talked for a while, like little girls do, being about the same age and all. She said she had to go home and bake a cherry pie. An hour later the little girl died. And then it was too late.

Wanted to come and say... I treasured the time you said hello to me and shared the precious moments of your life. It didn't matter my being black and you white...and it didn't matter the age difference. We were two people sharing memories of the past and the warmth and enjoyment of the moment.

Wanted to say...

Ada Woodson Adams

"As Long As Hearts Remember"

This is a "surprise" announcement for MGC board member Nancy Aiken.

Not long ago Nancy accepted the challenge to be our Publications Committee chairperson. She, and a committee of willing workers, immediately plunged into their first project, the cookbook that just came off the presses.

We congratulate—and thank—all those involved for such a wonderful job!

This is not the "surprise". It comes in this "suggestion"—

let's make our next publication a tribute to our deceased loved ones. Already in hand are several poems, essays and "thoughts" written to those who remain with us only in memory. These include pieces by Gracie Mayle Hill, Margaret Tabler and others. Some are inscriptions from tombstones of years gone by. You, too, can contribute your tribute for a booklet I hope to call "As Long As Hearts Remember".

Before Nancy can protest

"No! No! Not another book!", let's get this one started. Send your contributions (including, if you like, a picture and obituary of the person, plus your relationship to him or her) to MGC, P. O. Box 125, Chesterhill, Ohio 43728.

Deadline is June 30, 2003.

If you would like to be the editor, or would like to help produce the book, let Nancy or me know.

Al Adams

Everyone Has A Story To Tell

We all have a story to tell and we all have stories that should be written down. But for some reason we don't do either one. Days and years pass and we look back and say, "I wish I had listened better; I wish I knew what happened when." But it is too late. The storyteller is gone and the story will not be told, as we now want to hear it.

In 1982, Al Adams wanted his children Amelia and Clay III to hear his stories of growing up. Al had a story to tell, but he didn't have the audience he wanted to hear this story. Amelia was getting ready for college and Clay was starting to work on becoming city cross-country track champion. They just didn't have the time to listen to those old fashioned days.

Al, being a writer, decided his story had to be told. He started with one incident in his growing up years that he wanted to tell. Lo and behold, one story lead to another memory and another story.

In 1983 Al self-published his book, *Hold Tight To The Hames Episodes of Life in Athens County*. It became a popular read across the country. It is found in many libraries.

On our trip to take Marie to college, Clay could not put the book down to enjoy our company or the sites along the way. It took Marie a little longer to read Dad's stories. The book sold out, but request for the book continued. We decided to re-publish. Added to the re-published book are family pictures, original artwork, bigger print and some new material.

I started this article with "everyone has a story to tell but for some reason we just don't take time to write them down". When MGC decided to put together a cookbook as a fundraiser, I thought it would be great if contributors would add a little history about the recipe and about themselves. The response was slow at first, but when people started talking and telling their stories we have now enough stories and recipes to do two cookbooks.

Volume One of MGC Heritage Cookbook is ready and for sale at \$12.00, plus \$3.00 shipping for one book and \$1.75 shipping for each additional book in the same order. The cover of the cookbook was created by our own, Amber Tabler, the daughter of MGC board members, Rhonda and Jeff Tabler.

Al Adams book *Hold Tight To The Hames* is for sale at \$15.00, plus \$3.00 shipping and \$1.75 shipping for each additional book in the same order. Write Ada Woodson Adams, 12128 S. R. 329, Stewart, Ohio 45778 or email, amadams@frognets.net.

Besides contacting Ada, both books are also sold by Nancy Aiken, Mildred Vore and at the Chesterhill Library and the Athens County Historical Society and Museum.

Ada Woodson Adams

MGC's Goals (con't from Page 1)

The other is the several talks I've been privileged to make, along with MGC board member David Butcher, to visitors at the Kennedy Museum of Art exhibit "People of Color: A Multicultural Role in History". Dave suggested and guest curated the exhibit. Our presentations begin with a long-time taboo subject in America—interracial romance. Our audiences have been incredibly receptive to the story, and quite willing to discuss it openly. My how things have changed—for the better—in America!

It is very satisfying to have MGC as one of the positive forces in that change. This is possible because you are a part of MGC and help make the organization strong.

Al Adams

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Membership Meeting Speakers: 2003

March 11 Dr. Gifford Doxsee
(retired O.U. Professor)
"My Five Months As A Slave"

April 8 Ann Cramer
Wayne National Forest
Their archaeological work-identifying
original residents of Payne's Crossing
(a black community outside New
Straitsville)

May 13 Darnell Brown
Co-founder/Co-chair E.Central/
S.E. Ohio Juneteenth Commit
tee
Juneteenth Celebration, in Zanesville,
Ohio, a celebration of the ending of
chattel slavery in America

June 10 MGC is requesting volunteers
to tell about a little know person of
color you would like the membership
to learn about.
If interested contact Sherry Walker at
swalker@frognnet.net or at 740-662-
5351

Sherry Walker

Membership Information

- Annual membership runs from January 1 through December 31
- Applications for membership received after October 1 will run through December 31 of the following year
- 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.