

Genealogy News

Summer 2008

Volume 8 Issue 1

A Quarterly Publication of The Multicultural Genealogical Center

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"Thee Old House Project"

This is indeed an exciting season for the Multicultural Genealogical Center in Chesterhill, Ohio. A project that after several years of planning is coming closer to realization. We are referring to, of course, the renovations to the building which will be the center's headquarters.

The first of three "Paint The Center Days" was on Saturday, August 2. The following account given by MGC President, Ada Woodson Adams, will explain how this all came about.

Being a non-profit 501 c 3 organization, we are limited in what we can say about religion. But the following story has the historically significant religious touch of a Divine Helping Hand.

We met Rev. Bob Davis of the Jackson (Ohio) Area Ministries at the ACLP Workshop at Burr Oak State Park. After the workshop, Rev. Davis came up to our group and asked if he could help us paint our Center. He went on to explain how he collaborates with Dr. Louis Mason from the Reynoldsburg, Ohio area and that they repair and paint old homes as community service projects. This doctor has roots in Morgan County and Rev. Davis was sure he would help MGC. We could not believe our ears, but definitely said we were interested ... "when could they start?"

When we met Dr. Mason at our site in Chesterhill and after introductions were made, I could tell Dr. Mason was excited.

When he told us the reason for his excitement, chills ran up my spine and of course I let out a shout of joy.

He told us that about two months ago, he and his wife Brenda were driving through Chesterhill and she emotionally said, "See that house there; you should make that house one of your summer camp projects. At that time, Dr. Mason had not talked with Rev. Davis. Dr. Mason went on to say his wife told him she had played in and spent a lot of time in the house as it belonged to Brenda's grandparents, John and Sarah "Sally" Patterson.

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University Recognizes Underground Railroad Historian

The following article appeared in the June 11, 2008 Ohio University Ohio Outlook Magazine. It is printed here with the permission of George Mauzy.

He may have never pitched Jell-O pudding or starred on his own TV sitcom, but John S. Mattox, founder and curator of the Underground Railroad Museum in Flushing, Ohio, will nonetheless feel special when he accepts an honorary doctor of public

service degree Saturday from Ohio University.

The university conducts two undergraduate commencement ceremonies. It will present Mattox's degree at the 2:00 p.m. ceremony for graduates of the college of Arts and Sciences, Education, and Health and Human Services and Honors Tutorial College. Sports Illustrated senior writer Peter King, an OU alumnus, will receive an honorary doctor of communication degree at the 9:30 a.m. ceremony

for graduates of the College of Business, College of Fine Arts, Regional Higher Education, Russ College of Engineering and Technology, Scripps College of Communication and University College.

"I am both humbled and appreciative when I heard that Ohio University wanted to present me with an honorary doctor of public service degree," Mattox said. "I thought only people like Bill Cosby

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"Thee Old House Project"

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Brenda went on to tell her husband that Grandmother Patterson had taken her down to the basement and had shown her the hiding place where slaves had been hidden. MGC now owns that house. We had just gotten word that our future research center was a STATION on the Underground Railroad!!!!

We knew the early Patterson families who settled in Morgan County had been conductors on the Underground Railroad, but we had not yet, connected John and Sally Patterson to the early Patterson settlers/conductors. With Brenda's memories, we have a definitive source of information which will give a big boost in documenting more of the role Chesterhill and its people had in history.

It was divine intervention that Rev. Bob Davis, of the Jackson Area Ministries (JAM), a multi-sponsored church and community ministry located/serving the Appalachian counties of southeast Ohio, was guided to us. He started a drive that is continuing to build momentum. His efforts in stepping forward shows that Rev. Bob is a "Sparkplug" in the truest sense. MGC will have a historic site beautified and preserved because of his belief in MGC.

"Sparkplug", Dr. Louis Mason's commitment to giving back to communities in need and the churches from the Reynoldsburg, Ohio area—Brice United Methodist Church, Peace United Methodist Church, Pickerington and Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church—will provide volunteers for this project. MGC will have a center that will add to the beauty of Chesterhill and add pride in its contributions in the making of America.



Ada Woodson Adams
President

President's Column

This column is an opportunity to share with our members events and happenings that have or are taking place in the organization. With deaths and illnesses, the past few months have been difficult, but we have pressed on and made significant progress.

We have a longer column this time because we missed publishing a newsletter last quarter. It will bring you up to date on most of the activities MGC has been involved in the last six months.

We have participated in grant writing workshops, UGRR presentation, UGRR tours, and speaking engagements. Your President was asked to co-present the history of the Albany Area UGRR with artist Joni Carrington at the Wells Library in Albany, Ohio in February. Joni's artwork is an outstanding collection, showcasing the history of the Underground Railroad.

In March, MGC made plans and prepared for the Ohio Think History group of teacher's UGRR Tour and Morgan County, Ohio presentation. We must have done a pretty good presentation because MGC gained three new members and sold several books. Our guests were also able to purchase Amish breads and vegetables. Also, in March, yours truly was asked to present a family history at the Patriots & Pioneers History and Genealogy Conference at Washington State Community College. We had a table display of MGC published materials and made some good contacts with others who attended the conference.

In April, MGC was very busy preparing for two UGRR Tours. Plus, Leslie Dunn South Elementary School RIF Coordinator invited me to be a part of the RIF Reading Program. This gave MGC an opportunity to interact with K-6th grade children. They loved it, and I did too. We were invited back and MGC will take them up on the invitation this coming school year.

We closed out April with a major UGRR Tour that included 24 participants. We had to turn people away because of space. The tour, an all day trip, co-sponsored with UCM: Center for Spiritual Growth and Social Justice, started in Athens, Athens County, Ohio and ended in Chesterhill, Morgan County, Ohio. We are in the process of planning more UGRR Tours. If, you are interested contact Melissa Wales at wales@ohio.edu or ucmcf@frognet.net.

We were invited to speak at Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group in Oberlin, Ohio on May 3. What a delightful time we had. We found out that family names in Oberlin are connected to family names in Athens, Morgan and Washington counties. I am sure book sales were increased dramatically because of the family connections.

The MGC President did a presentation in Zanesville, Ohio for the joint meeting of the Sons and the Daughters of the American Revolution. We were well received. A picture of Brian McKee and me made the Morgan County Herald Newspaper. (I think that was a good sign the presentation went well.)

On May 27 and 28, five people attended a grant workshop at Burr Oak Resort, near Glouster, Ohio. We now have five "Sparkplugs"; and boy are they "energized". (More about "Sparkplugs" in this edition).

Also in May, the Governor's Office of Appalachia had a hand in a grant writing workshop. During this workshop MGC learned more about the process of grant writing and was given insight on the many grants available. Some opportunities for achieving grant writing success were

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University Recognizes Underground Railroad Historian

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received these. It shows that if you are in the right place at the right time and you do the right things, you might just get recognized."

Mattox, 72, said he's flattered to be honored, but being active in the community is only natural for him.

"I decided early on in life that I was going to do something that stood out," Mattox said. "I tried to be aggressive by taking on leadership roles in the community and never looked for anything in return. I just felt good doing it." Known for his affable personality, Mattox is a member of the Ohio University Eastern Campus Coordinating Council, co-chair of the university's African American Cultural Committee and a vital contributor to the Department of African American Studies' African American Presence in the Ohio River Valley research project. The grant funded multimedia project is documenting the contributions of people of color to the history and development of Appalachia. He also funds an annual non-restricted \$500 scholarship.

A native of Raleigh, N.C., Mattox has been in dozens of local and national organizations since moving to his wife Rosalind's hometown of Flushing in eastern Ohio in 1973. In fact, the Underground Railroad Museum shares its building with A Special Wish Foundation, an organization for which Mattox serves as national chairperson and National Board of Governors member.

Accolades are nothing new for Mattox, a retired insurance agent. Among other honors, he has received Belmont County Tourism Person of the Year recognition, the West Virginia Education Association's Effie Mayhan Brown Award and Community Builder Awards from the cities of Steubenville and Flushing. He also has served as a board member for various companies and organizations, including Harrison County Hospital, Belmont County

Correctional Institution Community Board and Bank One in Wheeling, WV.

John A. Townsend, an attorney from the Pittsburgh area, said he nominated his friend for the honor because Mattox frequently mentions how much he loves Ohio University and appreciates the opportunity to work with faculty, staff and students.

"From the time I met him, I realized that he was a genuine human being with no ego," Townsend said. "I decided it was time for him to be recognized for all the work he has done to help people in any way he can for his efforts to teach children and others more about American history.

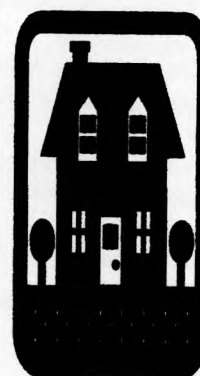
Mattox is best known for his work with the Underground Railroad Museum, which displays more than 30,000 items related to the Underground Railroad and slavery. Keys to slave pens, books, reward posters, slave collars, bills of sale and maps from the trans-Atlantic slave trade are included in the collection. The most popular items with visitors, Mattox said, are a leather whip with small spiked balls called the "cat of nine tails", a replica of a slave's severed hand and a life-sized carving of an African being captured.

Despite the allure of the museum, Mattox fills his traveling truck with museum artifacts and travels to cities and schools across the region more than 100 times a year. He also gives special tours of notable Underground Railroad sites in the region.

"All of my presentations are tailored to my audience, and I am always careful with how I explain this part of history to children, because I want to stimulate them and get them to ask questions," Mattox said. "I try to educate people on the history of slavery because it is American history, not just black history".

Mattox said his daughter, Suzanne, an Ohio University graduate, recently said something that makes Saturday's presentation all the more special. "My daughter told my wife on the phone the other day, 'I'm just so proud of my daddy', he said. "Coming from an educated person like her, that made me feel real good. You know, I'm satisfied with life, and I don't need to do a whole lot of other things, but this (honorary degree) really topped it off."

The Underground Railroad Museum is free and open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday or by appointment. For more information, visit www.ugrrf.org. (Note by Ada Woodson Adams: John's UGRR Museum is outstanding and a most visited site.)



"THEE OLD
HOUSE"

THANK
YOU!!!!!!!!!!

There have been so many of our members and friends who have continually supported MGC throughout the years, and for some every year. We could not be here without you and your support. Personally, I feel your love for those who have passed on, for the visions that they had and for the support of the present directors and the mission they are carrying on.

Thank You!!

Ada Woodson Adams

President's Column

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also explained. From these experiences, MGC is presently seeking other grants.

In June, I attended a grant workshop in Columbus, Ohio, sponsored by the Ohio Arts Council. It was very informative and provided a great opportunity for networking. The workshops have provided those who attended and MGC a wealth of information and resources to tap into.

Some background information is needed to explain the word "Sparkplug". A word you will want to embrace and find it in yourselves.

MGC members and friends of MGC participated in a two day grant writing workshop in May sponsored by The Governor's Office of Appalachia (GOA) and the Ohio Department of Development Appalachian Community Learning Project (ACLP). The ACLP program began in 1997 to build civic capacity and engage distressed and hard to reach areas. This program has a strong history in Ohio of helping communities to help themselves and bring about dramatic and lasting positive change.

The GOA partnered with the Rensselaerville Institute, located in New York. It is an independent and non-profit educational center whose business is results. It is called in *The Wall Street Journal*, "the think tank with muddy boots". The Institute works with two groups: those who invest to improve human lives (Sparkplugs) and those who spend investments (GOA) in social programs.

Wanda Hairston, Community Development Analyst of the GOA;
David Watson-Hallowell, Senior

Program Consultant and Kristal Heinz, Program Associate of the Rensselaerville Institute led our workshop. The Rensselaerville program invests in community improvement through building community capacity and leadership. Those taking the training are called "Sparkplugs".

"Sparkplugs" are community members with a passion for making things better. They are moms, dads, students, retirees, farmers, teachers, store clerks, and entrepreneurs. Despite their outward differences they have one thing in common—they would rather do something about a problem than complain about it. The ACLP prepares and supports the "Sparkplugs" and encourages community involvement.

Wanda, David and crew did a wonderful job in preparing for the workshop and in helping those (like the MGC trainees) who needed encouragement, while they gained confidence in grant writing. MGC will receive \$3,000. There is a six month time frame for completing the projects. The compressed time frame will help us to build energy and compel action while the \$3,000 mini-investments attract additional needed resources.

The ACLP Multicultural Genealogical Center Project is called: "Thee Old House", and the "Sparkplugs" are" Ada Woodson Adams, Gloria and Nelson Myers, Elma Stirgwoit and Dessie Workman. They worked together and created an action plan to empower the community to bring about improvements to the Village of Chesterhill; to paint and landscape the MGC building, to increase business in

Chesterhill through tours, and to inspire the youth to learn more about the rich history of the area and to ask seniors to share their life stories with the youth.

To achieve the above "Thee Old House Project" is committed to getting volunteers who will help fulfill the following commitments made to GOA and the Appalachian Community Learning Project (ACLP).

- 1) Beautification of the MGC site with repairing and painting the outside of the house and landscaping the site.
- 2) Provide for adults/seniors to talk about their life experiences to school children.
- 3) Train two or more people to be Underground Railroad guides.
- 4) Involve local businesses to increase economic growth in the Village of Chesterhill through tourism.
- 5) Conduct at least four Underground Railroad tours by December 2008.
- 6) Involve young children in old fashion games, role playing and listening to stories of the past.
- 7) Raise \$30,000 in funds, materials and/or in-kind services to pay for the total project.
- 8) CELEBRATE WITH OPEN HOUSE IN DECEMBER 2008.

Your help is needed. Will You Help? Help is welcome in any form—money, labor, materials, writing grants, even words of encouragement are welcome and will be appreciated.

To volunteer or donate materials, contact: Nelson Myers, 740-554-6992 or Dessie Workman, 740-662-0207.

MONETARY DONATIONS can be made payable to:

Multicultural Genealogy Center (or MGC)

P. O. Box 125

Chesterhill, Ohio 43728

MGC Plans Capital Development Drive—July 2008

The Capital Development Committee of the Multicultural Genealogical Center (MGC) met Wednesday, July 1, and unveiled a fund-raising plan to raise \$75,000 over the next eighteen months. The success of the campaign will make possible restoration of MGC's building on Main Street, Chesterhill, Ohio. The plan is to have the Center available to the public for research, programs and meetings in 2009.

The plan calls for an increase in MGC membership by at least 100 members by January 1, 2009. A membership phone drive is planned for Fall 2008. Details about the membership drive will be made public in the near future.

The central piece in the plan is a memorial room dedication program. The historic Quaker building, important to the Underground Railroad activities in Chesterhill, will have five rooms, each of which will have a specific role in future archival and research programs of MGC. Each of the rooms will be named in honor of the donor who funds its restoration. The rooms will have the following descriptions, along with the donors' requested name(s), inscribed on brass markers that will be displayed at the entrances to the rooms.

The minimum amount of the donation or bequest required for each room is shown as follows:

QUILT & AFGHAN RAFFLE

MGC will be selling raffle tickets as a fund-raiser. You will have an opportunity to purchase a ticket for the drawing for a quilt being donated by Dessie Workman and an afghan donated by Rose Burnham.

Tickets are one for \$1.00 or six tickets for \$5.00.

Tickets will be made available for purchase through December 6, 2008.

Tickets can be purchased at a MGC meeting or at the mailing address below:

Multicultural Genealogical Center
P. O. Box 125
Chesterhill, Ohio 43728

(Donor's Name) *Archival Room* \$9000

Second Floor, large room will house archival records and resource materials.

(Donor's Name) *Music & Regional Arts Room* \$8000

Second Floor, small room will house music and art manuscripts, sheet music, books on history of music, recordings and art works.

(Donor's Name) *Research Center* \$10,000

First Floor, west side of central room, will house computers and work space for researchers.

(Donor's Name) *Research Center* \$10,000

First Floor, east side of central room, will be used as general meeting area and work space for researchers.

(Donor's Name) *Hospitality Room* \$8000

First Floor, will be used as a reception and serving area

Supporter-Donor Plaque

A large plaque will be displayed in a prominent place on the First Floor and will contain the names of all who contribute a minimum of \$300, in-kind service or donated needed materials.

These contributions will be used to furnish the facility and maintain the Multicultural Genealogical Center.

For further information about how you can participate in the Capital Development Program, call 740-554-6994.

Capital Development Committee:

Ada Woodson Adams, President	Kaye Appleman, Treasurer
David Butcher, Director	Nelson Myers, Director
Russell Tippet, Director	Richard Wetzel, Chairperson

ODOT Coffee Break Fundraiser

MGC participated in an ODOT Coffee Break Fundraiser held at the rest stop along Interstate 77 at Marietta, Ohio on July 25, 26 and 27, 2008.

An update regarding the success of this project will be provided in the next Newsletter.

Thanks to all who participated!

MGC Events and Volunteers (past six months)

2-16-08

Presentation at the Wells Library, Albany, Ohio, Underground Railroad through Paints and History

Joni Carrington and Ada Woodson Adams

Book sells, Dessie Workman

3-26-08

Underground Railroad & History Tour—Ohio Think History

Warren Fussner Kay Cunningham Harris

Virginia Norris Russell Tippet

Pauline Walker Richard Wetzel

Dessie Workman

3-29-08

Presentation Marietta Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Patriots & Pioneers, History & Genealogy Conference at Washington State Community College, Marietta, Ohio

Ada Woodson Adams Virginia Norris

Pauline Walker Dessie Workman

4-26-08

UCM: Center for Spiritual Growth & Social Justice, Underground Railroad Tour, Melissa Wales, Program Director

Kay Cunningham Harris Virginia Norris

Russell Tippet Melissa Wales

Pauline Walker Richard Wetzel

Dessie Workman

Presenters

Warren Fussner	Amish History
Dane McCarthy	UGRR Site & History
Sally Kozma	UGRR & Early Pioneer History
Robert Avery	Coonskin Library, Amesville
Connie Dexter	Tour UGRR, tour guide
Richard Dean	History
Tom O'Grady	Pictures
Ann Bonner	Pictures

5-03-08

Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group

Speaker, Ada Woodson Adams

Books sells, Dessie Workman

5-10-08

Joint Meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution & the Daughters of the American Revolution at the American Legion in Zanesville, Ohio,

Speaker, Ada Woodson Adams

Book sells, Dessie Workman & Brenda Morehead

"Tid Bits To Chew On"

One of our members, Lace Lynch, did some cemetery searching and found the following information.

I went to Cedar Hill cemetery in Newark, Licking County, Ohio to find graves of families I have been studying. The cemetery is old and has excellent records—all intact. Sad to say that the grave of D. M. (Daniel Merritt) Guy (d. Jan 31, 1942, age 90 years 1 month and 16 days, son of Nancy Pointer and Allan Guy) has no marker. In fact, he is buried in a lot owned by William Harris. However, I am happy to say that a list of his grandchildren is included with his interment record which is quite unusual. Daniel M. Guy was an educator and postman. He was active in Oddfellows and I think the Masons.

Page in Burial Plot Book: Grandchildren of Mr. & Mrs. D. M. Guy

Mrs. Evelyn Hickman Blair 8853 Racjan Avenue San Diego, California	Mr. Daniel Hickman California 503 Pinewood Avenue Toledo, Ohio	Mrs. Marjorie Guy Jones 503 Pinewood Avenue Toledo, Ohio
Mrs. Ruth Hickman New Jersey	Mr. Dwight Guy 1565 Homer Avenue Toledo, Ohio	Mr. Carl Guy 1067 Grand Avenue Toledo, Ohio
Mr. Ronald Simpson 357 N. Woods Avenue Battle Creek, Michigan	Mrs. Myra Simpson Battle Creek, Michigan	Mrs. Marjorie Simpson

I believe Dwight and Carl are buried in another section of Cedar Hill. I saw their graves. Some of the Norman family are buried there, along with surnames Ransom, Toney, Cook, Harris and Tibbs—all names related to Zanesville families.

Lace Lynch

Births/Deaths/Graduations

Deaths

Mildred Vore

(treasurer)

David Aiken

Husband of Nancy Aiken (board member)

High School Graduation:

Nakea Butcher

Daughter of David and Rose Butcher
(board member)

Remembering—Mildred Tabler Vore

Many individuals including members of the Multicultural Genealogical Center mourn the passing of Mildred Tabler Vore. She was a tremendous asset to MGC. She worked tirelessly at every task, volunteering to spend her time and energy with this organization, its mission which she believed in.

Mildred served in so many capacities. She was a MGC board member, she served as treasurer, she served as secretary and participated in nearly every event in which MGC was involved.

It is because of her belief, and others who preceded her such as Alvin Adams and Stephen Smith in MGC and its importance that provides us with an even greater desire to see MGC reach the goals laid before us.

We certainly do miss her.

A tribute to Mildred Vore will be included in our next newsletter. Please submit tributes/comments to MGC.

Mildred M. Vore, 66, of Tick Ridge Road, Vincent, Ohio died at 9:06 p.m., Thursday, December 20, 2007.

She was born October 3, 1941, in Kilvert, Ohio a daughter of Walter "Ted" and Freda Singer Tabler. She retired after 38 years from Dupont Chemical in Parkersburg, West Virginia where she was an accounting clerk. She was a member of the Kilvert Church, where she was the treasurer, played piano, and was a Sunday School teacher. She was a founding member and devoted supporter of the Multicultural Genealogical Center of Chesterhill, Ohio. Mildred was also treasurer of the Federal Valley Senior Center, and a member of the Marietta Senior Citizens Club.

She is survived by her mother, Freda Singer Tabler of Stewart, Ohio; husband, Harry F. Vore of Vincent, Ohio; one son, Todd Vore of Parkersburg,

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West Virginia; one daughter, Stacey L. Vore of Lorain, Ohio; three brothers, Chester Tabler of Stewart, Ohio, Pete Tabler of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Pat Tabler of Stewart, Ohio; and one sister, Sandra Smith of Little Hocking, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her father, Walter "Ted" Tabler; and one sister, Marilyn "Lena" Tabler Berger.

Graveside services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Sunday at Kilvert Cemetery near Stewart, Ohio with the Rev. Steve Skellett and the Rev. Charles Buck officiating. Visitation is from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, December at Stone-Matheney Funeral Home in Chesterhill, Ohio.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Tabler Linscott Scholarship Fund, P. O. Box 117, Stewart, Ohio 45778 or the Multicultural Genealogical Center, P. O. Box 125, Chesterhill, Ohio. 43728

Kroger Gift Card Fundraiser

Thank you to those of you who support MGC through our Kroger Gift Card Fundraiser Program. Be an MGC donor by purchasing an MGC Kroger Gift Card for \$5.00. The good news is the Kroger card already has \$5.00 worth of purchasing power on it. Every time you use

your MGC Kroger card, MGC earns 5% on every dollar spent. Just remember to load your card before you make any purchase of gas, food, medicine or flowers. Do you have a Kroger gift card? Donating to your favorite non-profit and feeding your family

is a win win situation for everyone.

Contact MGC at P. O. Box 125, Chesterhill, Ohio 43728 if need a card.

The Multicultural Genealogical Center

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Chesterhill, Ohio 43728-0125

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740-678-8511

Email: kstevenswalker@yahoo.com

MGC Board of Directors

Ada Woodson Adams

President

Russ Tippet

Vice President

Virginia Norris

Secretary

Kaye Appleman

Treasurer

Nancy Aiken

David Butcher

Dessie Workman

Junior Walker

Melissa Wales

Nelson Myers

Richard Wetzel

Welcome to our New Directors



Membership Information

Annual Membership runs from January 1 through December 31

To become a member of MGC, simply fill out an application form (applications can be obtained by contacting the address below) 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 St. Rt. 555 next to the fire station in Chesterhill. The first Saturday of each month.

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