FIRST AFRICANS IN HAMPTON

By Marsha Bembry

The first African slaves to set foot in North America, near the Jamestown English colony settled in 1607, were known as “the 20, and odd Negroes,” as noted on a historical marker erected in 1994 on Fort Monroe, Virginia (Point Comfort). For nearly 400 years, historians believed they were transported to Virginia from the West Indies on a Dutch warship. The City of Hampton, Virginia was founded on July 9, 1610 and is the oldest continuous English speaking settlement in America. In 1619, the first documented Africans to arrive on English occupied territory in what would become North America landed at Point Comfort in Hampton, Virginia, today’s Fort Monroe. According to a letter written by the colony's secretary, John Rolfe, to the Virginia Company of London treasurer, Sir Edwin Sandys, “the White Lion arrived first and landed at Point Comfort sometime late in August, having lost its ‘consort shipp’ on the passage from the West Indies. Rolfe mistakenly described the ship as a ‘Dutch man of Warr,’ perhaps because it bore a Dutch letter of marque. ‘He brought not any thing but 20 and odd Negroes,’ Rolfe wrote, which the governor, Argall’s (cont. on p. 9)

RESEARCHING UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS (USCT) VETERAN JOSEPH P. SUMTER’S STORY
(PART III of III)

By Cassie Ghee

Shortly thereafter, a different volunteer at National Archives told me that I should check the African-American Civil War Memorial on Vermont Avenue in Northwest, Washington, DC. I asked, “Isn’t that a memorial for soldiers from the Washington, D.C. area?” The response was, “Go check it out.” I did so on a cold January morning with a camera. I could not believe what I saw! I jumped for joy! His name spelled "Sumpter" was listed under the 104th Infantry Regiment. It was so cold that I had difficulty taking a photo. His name had been on the monument since it was constructed in 1998! After taking the photo, I excitedly called my mother in New York City to relay the news. She was just as excited as I was. It took a year or so for her to visit the monument on one of her infrequent visits to Maryland, but I did get a photograph of her next to her grandfather's name.

I later found a book of 104th USCT veteran narratives at the National Archives. I decided to request pension files of all (cont. on p. 6)
International African American Museum Planned

CHARLESTON, S.C.–Dr. John Fleming, who serves as the International African American Museum’s part-time director, indicated that the museum would work with educational institutions to produce quality exhibitions and begin to place educational materials on its website for public school children and teachers. Dr. Fleming said that he is pleased that Boeing selected the IAAM project as one it supported in 2012.

The International African American Museum aims to be a popular, sustaining institution where residents and visitors alike can learn about the role of African Americans in the making of the modern world, through the experiences of South Carolinians. The museum will be dedicated to telling the story of the black experience from an international perspective. African culture has survived to a greater extent in the Lowcountry than any other place in North America.

Many enslaved Africans embarked in Charleston prior to the abolishment of the transatlantic slave trade. The museum will cost approximately 7 million dollars and will be constructed on the wharf. The International African American Museum is scheduled to open in 2017. Using the interpretive lens of the Lowcountry, IAAM will interpret how African and African American cultures were central to the development of the nation.

(continues from p. 1 The Lingering Legacy of Slavery)

Roland: What is the significance of your book title, The Slaves Have Names: Ancestors of My Home?

Andi: Actually a friend of mine suggested that title because after she read the manuscript, she said that she felt like the names of these people were so central to my ability to find out more about them, but more importantly to their identities as human beings. Since enslaved people were not allowed to legally hold surnames and since this injustice has left many enslaved people unidentified and their stories largely untold. It's really crucial that we remember that these people did have names - both given names and surnames often of their own choosing.

2015: Sesquicentennial of Thirteenth Amendment Abolishing Slavery

The Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 was a war measure issued by President Abraham Lincoln which freed slaves in the states of rebellion. In 1864 U.S. Senator Lyman Trumbull borrowed language from the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and drafted a resolution to abolish slavery in all states. The resolution passed the Senate on April 8, 1864 but was defeated in the House on June 15, 1864. Lincoln and his allies went to work clearing the ground for the resolution’s final passage and submission to the voters. On January 31, 1865 the House of Representatives, by a vote of 119 to 56, finally approved the Thirteenth Amendment. On February 1, Lincoln signed the Joint Resolution submitting the proposed universal ban on slavery in the United States for ratification by three-quarters of the existing thirty-six states. Lincoln’s home state of Illinois began the process, ratifying the amendment on February 1, 1865. Two days later, the State of New York was the fourth to do so. On December 6, 1865, the necessary twenty-seventh state approved the Thirteenth Amendment: Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, shall exist within the United States…. (U.S. Constitution, Amendment XIII, Section 1.) The National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum (NAHOF) will be holding programming to commemorate this event. For the 2015 programming calendar, please visit www.nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org

Also, this title is my attempt to speak to the human beings who were enslaved rather than the institution of slavery. So often, we talk about numbers and generalized experiences, but slavery was a system built on the backs of individual people who passions and hates, opinions and preferences. When we talk about "slavery," we often forget the people themselves.

Roland: How did you come to write your book?

Andi: I came to this book through the accumulation of the paths in my life. I grew up on the plantations I write about. My father is the manager of one of them, and we moved there when I was 14. So in a very real way, this place is my home.

But sometime after I left there to go to college, I became aware that I didn't know anything at all - beyond the fact that a slave cemetery existed - about the people who were enslaved there. I had heard mention of a couple of names--Primus and Cato--but no one talked about the history of slavery on this place. So I began to wonder about these people who lived and worked here, the people who created the place I call home.

I also began to wonder about their descendants and to consider that some of the people I went to high school with might have been descended from these people enslaved there 150 years ago. Thus, began my research.
**FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK...**

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. (AAHGS), is a non-profit membership organization committed to the preservation of the history, genealogy and culture of the African-ancestrored populations of the local, national and international community. AAHGS stresses the importance of our history and genealogy by encouraging active participation in recording research and personal family histories.

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Submissions are welcomed. Articles will be printed at the editor’s discretion and may be edited without advance notice to the author. Articles and other submissions must be received on or before the fifth day of each odd-numbered month. **Articles and queries** may be mailed to: **AAHGS News**, c/o Rev. Roland Barksdale-Hall, 939 Baldwin Ave., Suite 1, Sharon, PA 16146, email: <aahgsnews@yahoo.com>.

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**To the members and guests of AAHGS,**

“Happy New Year.” We begin the year with a “Welcome Back” to our re-elected officers, President, Tamela Tenpenny-Lewis, Vice-President of Genealogy, Sherri Camp, Vice-President of History, Gene Stephenson and Corresponding Secretary Toni Byrd Vann. Although returning but in a new position we welcome Carolyn Corpening Rowe as Treasurer and we wish to extend our special thanks to Vicki Betsill of AAHGS Pittsburgh as our new Recording Secretary.

There are sooo many exciting things that will be finalized in 2015 that you will hardly recognize yourselves any longer. By the end of 2015 AAHGS will be operating as a business and it will be your responsibility as a member, officer or volunteer to keep up. There is no need for me to blurt out all that is about to happen, I’ll let you sign in on our still more to come, new web site and find out for yourself.

Preparing your youth to one day run AAHGS is one of the things this administration is focused on and I would like to present the achievements of two of them now.

I sincerely hope you all had the opportunity to watch the Opening Series of Genealogy Roadshow on January 20, 2015, now in its second season, shown from St. Louis a viewing of AAHGS members James & Beronda Taylor with their son James Herchel Taylor. As you recall, the Arkansas Chapter of AAHGS with Michelle Hood as President sponsored James and his mother to attend the 35th National Genealogical Conference in Pittsburgh in 2014. Both were ecstatic at attending the national conference (a first) but I hardly believe the visit measured up to not only having your DNA tested but revealed to hundreds of thousands around the world. In one of her many moments of gratitude Beronda wanted to "Thank the Village of AAHGS for all you have done for me and my son, James Taylor. We had a wonderful & very informative time at the AAHGS National Conference in PA in October. May God's Blessings, Healing Power, Protection and Favor be upon you & your families ALWAYS! Have a wonderful evening/weekend, Holiday Season & New Year!!! James Taylor & mother, Beronda Taylor.”

This next picture shows Millie McGhee Morris, AAHGS National Fundraising Chair and former Chapter President of AAHGS New Futures Chapter congratulating the Taylors. The next picture is of Taylor Alexis Lewis, the 2nd Award Winner of the Dr. Leslie LeRoy Fitz Morris Cash Scholarship Award for College Freshman that met the required criteria. Unfortunately Taylor was unable to make it to the conference and accepted by her very proud and surprised mother on her behalf was a Scholarship check of $1000 and a beautiful trophy presented by Ms. Millie. The Full Scholarship was worth ($2000), $1000 presented each freshman semester. Taylor is shown with her grandparents after winning 2nd runner up at the (TCU) Texas Christian University, Alpha Phi Alpha Scholarship Pageant. Shown in photo below, the trophy was awarded by Ms. Millie as part of the Cash Scholarship Award and the book, Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade is a prop and recommended reading since the theme for the 2015 January/February AAHGS Newsletter is “Revisiting the Transatlantic Slave Trade.”

In closing, a special heartfelt thanks goes out to the many of you (individuals as well as chapters) that reached out to my family in the loss of my mom’s sister Mrs. Betty Scoggins Benton. Mom (Evelyn) says she loves all of you and thank you all for your cards, love and acts of kindness. I too express the same sentiments as I recuperate from lumbar spine, back surgery on January 19th. LOL you will find me home until April.......

Until next time............Tamela

Submitted Feb. 7, 2015
SAVE THE DATE

36th National Genealogy Conference

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society

Virginia, Where African-American Roots Run Deep: Family History and the National Narrative

October 15-17, 2015
Richmond Marriott Hotel
500 East Broad Street • Richmond, Virginia

The 36th national AAHGS conference will celebrate Virginia’s unique place in African-American family history while recognizing that the year 2015 also marks the anniversaries of various national events in the history of the Civil War, Emancipation, and the Civil Rights Movement. The conference will explore Virginia family history, local and national episodes in the American history narrative, and connections between Virginia and the rest of the nation.

Enjoy more than thirty conference sessions and take advantage of the many opportunities to do family research in the Richmond region. Conference registration materials will be available in Spring 2015. For further information, email conference@aahgs.org.

Hotel reservations may now be made by calling 888-236-2427
Request AAHGS 2015 rate ($149 single, $159 double, etc.)
Rates in effect from 10/12 – 10/18.
Two AAHGS Metro Atlanta Chapter members highlighted the roles of blacks in the WWII U.S. military and revealed little-known ways to find ancestors in WWI records during the Chapter's salute to veterans at the Georgia Archives, November 15, 2014.

Military historian Robert Williams presented “World War II and the African American Experience,” and professional researcher Elyse Hill discussed "Beyond Draft Registration Cards -- Finding & Researching World War I Military Records."

Weaving the realities of segregated life and attitudes of the 1940’s, Williams invoked historian Stephen Ambrose’s comment that America was “fighting the world’s worst racist, Adolph Hitler, in the world’s most segregated Army.” Williams then profiled and anecdoted many well-known African American male and female military pioneers and heroes, such as Navy messman Dorie Miller, who became the war’s first hero by shooting down two planes and damaging two others; the Triple Nickle 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion; Tuskegee Airmen; and the Red Ball Express truck drivers.

Williams also brought to light little-known facts such as the first African American female Navy officers were Harriet I. Pickens and Frances Wills; an escaped slave, Keto, in 1776 was the first black person to enlist in the Marines, which then barred blacks for the next 162 years; the Merchant Marine was the only fully integrated service in WWII; 16 seamen passed the Navy officer’s course but only 13 were allowed to be commissioned; the oldest living veteran (cont. on p. 7)
veterans who said they were from the area around Sumter, South Carolina. I was hoping that someone who knew JP might mention his slave owner. The files turned out to be a gold mine, but I still have not found the slave owner’s name. I think that the owner may be a descendant of General Sumter for whom the city and the fort in Charleston Bay were named. One day I will seek pre-Civil War property records of the General’s family in the South Carolina Archives in the capital, Columbia. I did find by reading the narratives that along with other slaves JP most likely followed General Sherman’s troops southeast to the South Carolina coast when the Union troops marched through the center of the state.

I also found JP’s depositions in other veterans’ pension files where he successfully helped some in his former military regiment or their relatives living in the Sumter area to get Civil War pension benefits. As a trustee of his church, JP knew a lot about his community. There was a statement in one pension file by a military Special Examiner who had travelled to the state, i.e.: “The people (negroes) generally to be found in this state are of the lowest intelligence to be found anywhere in the country, very seldom indeed do you find any memorandum of any kind showing dates of occurrences, the people appearing to be satisfied to let the past bury itself and looking after only their immediate present.” I burst out laughing rather than get angry. The Special Examiner could not understand why there were few written records of births, baptisms, and marriages in the early 1900s in the black churches in the Sumter region. The files indicate that the ministers travelled in circuit rounds from one church to another keeping these records in their own possession. The Examiner had surmised, also, that most of the claimants were probably not telling the truth.

In any case, it appears that my maternal great-grandfather was not only intelligent enough to get a Civil War pension for himself and his family but also intelligent enough to help others he knew to get benefits as well! As an aside, since I had come across one Civil War veteran in the family, I decided to check for others. I subsequently found one on my father’s side from Maryland. However, that is another story. I return now to the original reason that I started research on JP Sumter. After attending a cousin’s funeral in South Carolina in 2011, I stayed a week longer to research the land records of Sumter County at the courthouse. I found a great deal of information on JP’s accumulation of land after 1880 but not on the amount of land that the 1880 Agricultural Census indicated that he owned at that time. By 1900 he had acquired much more than 50 acres of land. I still have much research to do. In closing, I hope that my family history research successes will inspire others to persevere when researching their own ancestors.

ENDNOTES

--Ancestry.com death records from Sumter, South Carolina, 2008;
--Ancestry.com 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920 census records, 2008;
--Http://www.scusct.org/pensioncompany.html, website of 104th USCT, 2010;
--National Archives Civil War Service Record file of Joseph Sumpter, May 2010;
--Veterans Administration Civil War Pension file of Joseph Sumter, Sept. 2011;
--National Archives Civil War Pension files of Peter Wilson, James Wilson, and Sharper Nettles, 2012;
--National Archives microfilmed records of the Freedmen’s Bureau for South Carolina, 1865-1872, 2011;
--African-American Civil War Memorial, Washington, DC; Jan. 2011;
--Sumter, SC, County Courthouse--Register of Deeds, Feb. 2011;
--Sumter, SC, County Courthouse—County Clerk’s Office, Feb. 2011.

Cassie Ghee (gcassie6666@hotmail.com), is a AAHGS Agnes Kane Callum Baltimore Chapter member. Submitted June 13, 2014.
WORTH NOTING

Congratulations **Lamar DeLoatch**, Piedmont-Triad Chapter, Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society president, who through scholarly historical research and documentation has traced his roots back 11 generations. He is featured in the *News & Record*, “Greensboro man has passion for family history.” For more visit [http://www.news-record.com/life/greensboro-man-has-passion-for-family-history/article_ebc0cd66-aef8-11e4-94e4-cfc5cd318f98.html](http://www.news-record.com/life/greensboro-man-has-passion-for-family-history/article_ebc0cd66-aef8-11e4-94e4-cfc5cd318f98.html)


**Barbara D. Walker**, President Emeritus, and **Sylvia Cooke Martin**, past national president, are included in this project.

**Melvin Collier** shares 20 *do’s and don’ts* tips about DNA testing. Feel free to share other tips in the Comments section. You can check it out at [http://rootsrevealed.blogspot.com/2015/01/20-dos-and-donts-of-dna.html](http://rootsrevealed.blogspot.com/2015/01/20-dos-and-donts-of-dna.html)

On Sunday, February 8, 2015, **Marlene Bransom**, Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society of Pittsburgh president, was featured in “Tracing African-American genealogy to be topic at event,” appearing in the *Tribune.*

**Hill** in her presentation urged the audience to consider largely untapped sources to find family members who may have served in WWI. They include Ancestry.com, state archives, local historical societies, the American Battlefield Commission, Grave Registration Service, Gold Star Mother Pilgrimages that allowed mothers and widows of deceased sons and husbands to travel to where their loved ones are buried overseas, pension records from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and newspapers. She examined several case studies using records on Ancestry.com, such as “U.S. Lists of Men Ordered to Report to Local Board for Military Duty, 1917-1918, Select States” and “Georgia, World War I Service Cards, 1917-1919.”

**William Durant** ([wdurant@bellsouth.net](mailto:wdurant@bellsouth.net)) is AAHGS—Metro Atlanta Chapter Webmaster and Proofreader for the *AAHGS Journal*. Submitted on December 18, 2014

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**2015 AAHGS NEWS CALL FOR PAPERS**

Submission deadlines and themes for *AAHGS News* follow:

- March/April issue 7March 2015
  Breaking the Glass Ceiling
- May/June 7 May 2015
  The Colored Leagues in Baseball, Sports and Beyond
- July/August 7 July 2015
  Solving Genealogical and Historical Puzzles
- Sept/Oct 7 Sept 2015
  Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Nov/Dec 7 Nov 2015
  Virginia, Where African-American Roots Run Deep: Family History and the National Narrative
- Jan/Feb 2016 issue 7 Dec 2015
  Migratory Patterns: Tracing the Movement and Geographical, Psychological and Upward Mobility of Our Ancestors

April 30, 2015 is the deadline for submissions to the spring 2015 *AAHGS Journal*. The theme is “Breaking Research Barriers, Finding New Clues, & Reconstructing Our Past.” Please send submissions to: aahgsnews@yahoo.com.

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successor Sir George Yeardley, and the cape merchant, Abraham Peirsey, bought for victualle [food] … at the best and easyest rate they could. Some (or perhaps all) of the Africans were then transported to Jamestown and sold."

Little else was known of the Africans. Now, new scholarship and transatlantic detective work have solved the puzzle of who they were and where their forced journey across the Atlantic Ocean began.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade began around the mid-century. The Portuguese were the first to arrive. By 1471, under the patronage of Prince Henry the Navigator, they had reached the area that was to become known as the Gold Coast because Europeans knew the area as the source of gold that reached Muslim North Africa by way of trade routes across the Sahara. The initial Portuguese interest in trading for gold, ivory, and pepper so increased that in 1482 the Portuguese built their first permanent trading post on the western coast of present-day Ghana. This fortress, Elmina Castle, constructed to protect Portuguese trade from European competitors and hostile Africans, still stands.

The 1845 deed describes Ann Willson as a "free woman of color". Ann was one of 1,311 free black inhabitants of Montgomery County enumerated in the Seventh U. S. Federal census. She is 40 years old and living in the household headed by George Wilson, presumably her brother. At some time after 1850 Ann married a man named Davis and became the step-mother of his children, William and Benoni. Her husband’s first name is lost to history; he was probably enslaved. If her husband were a slave at the time of their marriage, the union would not have been recognized in legal or civil records. This may account for her continued use of the Willson name.

Women had few legal or constitutional rights in the 1800s. They could not vote or serve on juries. Only widows and single women over the age of 21 could make contracts and own property in their own names. Married women were not legally entitled to the wages they earned. In order to acquire property, black women had to meet three conditions: be free, over 21 years of age and either single or widowed; making it remarkable that two of the three original land owners were black women.

Marsha Bembry (grnstreak@gmail.com) submitted “First Africans in Hampton” on January 17, 2015. She is a regular contributor and asst. editor for the AAHGS News.

(cont. from p. 1 First Africans in Hampton) (contd. on p. 13)
“Black Male Progress: Are We There Yet? (PART I)
By Roland Barksdale-Hall

“Do you want these books?” My father sat at the kitchen table and pointed to a Crisis Magazine. My father sowed a “gift from the heart” and purchased the multi-volume set of black history books. My father and the NAACP can be credited with cultivating my interest in African American history.

In the twenty-first century great strides have been made. In 2015, the eagerly anticipated and agitated for Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture is scheduled to open on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. To imagine that someone by the name of Barack Hussein Obama would be elected the first African American president would have been unfathomable to prior generations, given the long shadow of inequality and social exclusion our ancestors faced in America. Today, with President Barack Obama in the White House it seems hard to imagine Washington, D.C. once was a “segregated town.” Yet, at one time our nation’s capital indeed was segregated, in word and deed. “Ain’t that a turn-about!” Some might say, “Look the man faces disrespect.” Well if you would hold your point for a second, we’ll be getting to the issue in a moment. Right now, let’s focus on how far we’ve come on the journey.

Two years ago, President Obama gave a moving keynote address at the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial located near the National Mall. Obama gratefully acknowledged the connection between the Civil Rights Movement and his political ascendancy. He rose from Senator of Illinois to become President of the United States. The dawn of the twenty-first century witnessed fruition to a two decade long project of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. the first African American fraternity, founded at Cornell University almost a century earlier in 1906. The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha spearheaded a successful campaign drive to raise almost 120 million dollars for the colossal King Memorial. For sure, these have been momentous times we now live.

Dr. King spoke of having been to the Mountaintop and looked over in to the Promise Land. Are we there yet? Ice Cube appears in a popular movie by that same name where he travels with two youth on a journey. The youth periodically ask, “Are we there yet?” This question calls us to explore our path to freedom. Let’s take a few minutes to explore that question—Are we there yet?

So many of my college students, who had heard of Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and Malcolm X, had never heard of the Little Rock Nine and Daisy Bates. My students have asked, “Why have we never heard of this before?” They were not aware of outspoken individuals like Maria Stewart, Ida Barnet Wells, Henry Highland Garnett, David Walker, Martin Delany, John Brown. Those in power teach the history of their group. The glaring lack of a historical consciousness among younger Americans, in particularly African Americans, Latinos, Native American, females, and economically disadvantaged whites, needs to be addressed in public schools.

My friend and mentor, Dr. Edna Chappell McKenzie, a Pittsburgh
Forms of resistance to slavery included: 1) Slave narratives, including the autobiography of Olaudah Equiano to Incidents in the Life of Harriet Jacobs; 2) runaway; 3) work slow downs 4) rebellions, including Nat Turner, Gabriel Prosser, John Brown; 5) abolition; 6) emigration.

An effect of the Revolutionary War was a momentary pricking of America’s conscience. In some Northern States slavery was abolished. Vermont led the way in the abolishment of slavery. However, it made it hard for free blacks to live in their state. Also laws were passed making it impossible for blacks to own property. So the intent in Vermont was to entirely remove their state of blacks. In Pennsylvania there was the 1780 Gradual Abolishment of Slavery.

Free blacks in the North faced Black Code and social exclusion. Social commentators have noted Sunday morning to be the most segregated time in America. At one time blacks and whites attended church together. Free Blacks were forced to worship in colored galleries in white churches. A person praying was interrupted and told to return to the gallery; such incidents at these churches led to the formation of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church by Richard Allen. The A.M.E. Zion Church, known as the Freedom Church, produced leaders. David Walker in his widely circulated publication, David Walker’s Appeal, warned that the persistent mistreatment of enslaved individuals would lead to bloodshed. Free blacks were kidnapped and sold into slavery. These flaws would precipitate a bloody Civil War. Additions to the U.S. Constitution later would be required.

13th Amendment passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, ratified on December 6, 1865 abolished slavery in the United States. Are we there yet? 14th Amendment ratified on July 9, 1868 made granted citizenship. Are we there yet? 15th Amendment ratified on February 3, 1870 provided black male citizens, excluding females, the right to vote. In 2013, Pennsylvanians—some minorities and poor voters—are challenged by a voter id law with potential to disenfranchise them. Are we there yet?
demand for slaves in the Americas, trade in slaves soon overshadowed gold as the principal export of the area. Indeed, the west coast of Africa became the principal source of slaves for the New World. The seemingly insatiable market and the substantial profits to be gained from the slave trade attracted adventurers from all over Europe. Much of the conflict that arose among European groups on the coast and among competing African kingdoms was the result of rivalry for control of this trade.

Between 1618 and 1620, thousands of Africans were enslaved during the war between King Alvaro III of Congo and his uncles and sold into slavery. There was also the war between the Portuguese Leader Endes de Vascondes and a band of a marauding mercenary soldiers against the Kingdom of Ndongo.

A retired University of California at Berkeley historian, Engel Sluiter, made a startling discovery in the Spanish national archives in the late 1990s as he did research for a book on Spanish America. “A colonial shipping document he uncovered in an account book identified a Portuguese slave ship called the San Juan Bautista. About 350 slaves were bound for Veracruz, on the he coast of modern-day Mexico, when the ship was robbed of its human cargo off the coast of Mexico in 1619 by two unidentified pirate ships, the record said.”

The ships are now identified as the “White Lion” who many believed was an English ship with a Dutch flag and the “Treasurer” an English ship. Sluiter, who died in 2001, published his discovery in the William and Mary Quarterly.

It caught the eye of John Thornton, an expert on the Portuguese colonies in Africa in the 16th and 17th centuries. “Through records of a legal dispute between the pirate ships, Thornton identified the British vessels as the Treasurer and the White Lion, which was flying a Dutch flag. Each took 20 to 30 slaves before the San Juan Bautista continued to Veracruz. They landed at Jamestown within four days of each other and traded the Africans for provisions. The Treasurer then sailed to Bermuda, dropping off more slaves, and returned to Virginia a few months later, trading the final nine or 10 more.”

The White Lion arrived at Point Comfort along the Virginia coast, present day Hampton during the latter part of August 1619 carrying 20 and odd Negros, where they all came ashore. “Two of the original Africans who came ashore, Antonio and Isabella, became servants on the plantation of Capt. William Tucker who was the commander at Point Comfort. Some of the slaves were purchased by Governor George Yeardley and his Cape Merchant Abraham Piersey. They were then transported to plantations along the James River in what would become Charles City. The Treasurer arrived 3-4 days after the White Lion but was not allowed to trade their Africans so they left Point Comfort for Bermuda where they traded their Africans for corn. There is no documentation that either ship ever traveled to Jamestown to unload Africans. These Africans became the first Africans to arrive in America on British occupied territory.”

In 1623, Antonio and Isabella gave birth to William Tucker, the first African child born in America. The Tucker Family and descendants from the first African child born in America still resides in Hampton. William Tucker is buried in Hampton.

Virginia's first Africans spoke Bantu languages called Kimbundu and Kikongo. Their homelands were the kingdoms of Ndongo and Kongo, regions of modern-day Angola and coastal regions of Congo. Both were conquered by the Portuguese in the 1500s. The Africans mined tar and rock salt, used shells as money and highly valued their children, holding initiation ceremonies to prepare them for adulthood.

ENDNOTES
3. Ibid.

(contd from p. 9 Great Falls Road) In the 1870 census, Ann Willson Davis is 70 years old and continues to live on her land. By this time, she has sold ¼ acre to Benoni and Elizabeth Davis, her stepson and his wife. The 1865 Martinet & Bond Map shows five structures on Ann Willson’s acre identified as “cold”, a contraction of “colored”. In 1866, Eliza Ann Davis, daughter of Benoni, married William H. Johnson. Ann deeded approximately ¼ acre to him in 1871. The 1879 Hopkins Atlas shows “B. Davis” beside a house at this location.

On September 29, 1902 Eliza and William “in consideration of the love and affection which we bear towards our daughter”, deeded approximately ¼ acre to Elizabeth “Bessie” Hill. Ella Davis Nugent had one son, Ferdinand. She apparently died when he was very young. His grandmother and Aunt Eliza assumed responsibility for him. When Ferdinand became 21 years of age in 1910, Eliza Johnson signed a deed that legally recorded the transfer of Ella’s portion of their inheritance along with additional land to him. With these transfers of land, two of Ann Willson’s great-grandchildren shared in her legacy and the tradition of providing housing for the extended family and the maintaining of close ties continued.

Eliza Johnson made her will in 1902. She died in 1917 leaving her husband, William lifetime interest in the house and cash bequest to her sons and grandsons. However, in keeping with tradition, her remaining land went to her four daughters (Bessie, Cora, Lillian and Eulie). By 1928, two of them were deceased. The youngest, Lillian J. Finley, purchased the land from her surviving sister, Eulie Carroll and the heirs of Bessie Hill and Cora Meadows.

Anne Willson Davis made her last will and testament in May 1878. She lived another year and saw the birth of Benoni’s youngest daughter Ella, as well as that of five of Eliza’s children. In the will, she made various bequests of her feathered quilts and dresses to Elizabeth Davis, Eliza Ann Johnson, Ella Davis, great granddaughter Eulie Johnson, and to friends Ann Bucy and Emma Cook. She left her remaining half acre, the house and all improvements to her stepson, William Davis, pending payment of her debts and funeral expenses.

The task of preserving ownership of the Willson – Davis family land fell to Eliza Davis Johnson, Ann’s granddaughter. By 1902, she reassembled all of Ann’s original property in her name. Eliza and Ella Davis Nugent, her sister, inherited their father’s 1/4 acre. William Davis passed the half acre he inherited from Ann to his son, John Thomas Davis in 1886. Eliza Ann bought it from him for $50 in 1901. The next year in a deed between husband and wife, Eliza became co-owner of the land William purchased from Ann Willson in 1871.

Lillian Finley Hairston sold a quarter acre lot to Sammy Green in 1932. A familial relationship to him is unknown. In the absence of one, the sale marks the first time a non-family member owned a part of Ann Willson Davis’ homestead. Around 1913, William and Eliza built the substantial two-
Hill and Lillian Hill Dove retained the remainder of the lot. Lillian lived here until her death in 1966. The last family member to occupy Ann Willson’s land was Emma Nugent, Ferdinand’s widow. She died in 1977 after living here for more than 60 years.

Land apparently lost primacy for the descendants of Thomas Price and Sarah Hopkins. As Eliza Johnson was assiduously tending to the stewardship of the Willson/Davis family land, the Price and Hopkins descendants were vacating theirs. The last of them disappear from census records of the area between 1920 and 1930. The land purchased by Thomas Price and Sarah Hopkins were all sold for past due taxes. In the 1890s, Rockville experienced a building boom and land was very valuable. Is it possible that speculators deliberately obscured the accumulating tax burden, the value of the land and the consequences of failing to pay?

My ancestors were fortunate. Ann Willson’s one acre, sub-divided, reassembled numerous times, and passed through several generations for more than one hundred twenty-five years. Land was a “Legacy” to her descendants. Her twenty-five dollar purchase was more than an investment. It provided a safe refuge for her immediate family and a home for the next five generation.

The Great Falls Road Kinship Community provided a safe harbor where free blacks could live independently. The residents acquired land, worked to establish schools, and were leaders in the church. After the Civil War, theirs were among the strong voices that actively called for improvements in conditions for their children and neighbors. Knowledge of this once vibrant community was nearly lost. It is clear that there is much more to learn about the people and the community.

Sharyn R. Duffin (SRDuffin@verizon.net), is a member of the AAHGS Montgomery County, MD Chapter. Submitted on July 15, 2014.

http://www.montgomeryhistory.org/civil-war
U. S. Census Collection 1790 – 1940
http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa SPEC00/sc3900/sc3908-00000
1:000012/html/am812-1.html
Maps and Atlases 1865 - 1965
Montgomery County: Land, will and assessment records
Freedman’s Bureau Records
Rockville directories 1918 - 1970
Family/resident oral history/stories and memories
Photographs courtesy of Peerless Rockville
The Colored Conventions Project (CCP) at the University of Delaware is delighted to announce the launch of a crowdsourcing project, Transcribe Minutes. This initiative invites people to visit ColoredConventions.org to transcribe records of the nineteenth-century African American convention movement. The first batch of available documents includes some of the most exciting conventions, featuring well-known leaders such as Frederick Douglass and Henry Highland Garnet from the 1840s with other batches to follow in 2015. CCP also extends a special invitation to "A.M.E. Transcribers" to work on conventions that convened in A.M.E Churches from Philadelphia to California.

The Colored Conventions movement began in 1830 in response to the violence and expulsion faced by Blacks in the “free” states. First held at Philadelphia’s Bethel A.M.E. Church, conventions soon spread across North America. “African American leaders and lay people organized for decades to fight against educational inequities, voting and political disenfranchisement as well as job and labor discrimination,” says P. Gabrielle Foreman, faculty director of the Colored Conventions Project and Ned B. Allen Professor of English and Black Studies. “As critical as the anti-slavery movement was, their broader vision continues to speak to this country’s ongoing racial challenges.”

Join the Hampton University Museum for the opening

To Be Sold: Virginia and the American Slave Trade

February 7, 2015
12 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Hampton History Gallery

This traveling exhibition panel examines Virginia’s role in the internal trade in enslaved people before the Civil War. Central to this exploration are two paintings by British artist Eyre Crowe, who witnessed the trade in Richmond and Charleston early in 1853 and created compelling images of what he saw.

Curated by Maurie D. McInnis, professor of art history and vice provosts of academic affairs at the University of Virginia, To Be Sold is an exhibition from the Library of Virginia with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Exhibition February 7 – February 28, 2015
36th NATIONAL AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL &
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE
October 15-17, 2015 - Richmond, Virginia

In October 2015, genealogists and historians from around the Commonwealth
of Virginia and across the nation will travel to Richmond to discover and
celebrate African-American family history, national history, and the
connections therein. The occasion will be the 36th National Conference of the
Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. (AAHGS).

Call for Papers
The Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society (AAHGS) is pleased to
announce an invitation to submit lecture proposals for the 36th National
AAHGS Conference to be held at the downtown Richmond Marriott, 500 East
Broad St., Richmond, Virginia, October 15-17, 2015. The conference theme is:

Virginia, Where African-American Roots Run Deep:
Family History and the National Narrative

The 36th National AAHGS conference will celebrate Virginia’s unique place in
African-American family history while recognizing that the year 2015 also
marks the anniversaries of various national events in the history of the Civil
War, Emancipation, and the Civil Rights Movement. The 2015 AAHGS
conference will explore Virginia family history, local and national episodes in
the American history narrative, and connections between Virginia and the rest
of the nation.

Suggested Topics
The 2015 Conference Planning Committee invites proposals for lectures and
workshops that illuminate:
- Original family and community history research—from Virginia and
  beyond
- Best research practices in family history
- Efficient use of genealogy websites and software
- The best use of records and repositories
- Effective strategies for researching, writing, and publishing family
  histories
- Analysis of the current state, limitations, and future of DNA and genealogical research
- Topics specifically related to African-American genealogy and history in Virginia
- African Americans during slavery, Reconstruction, and the Civil Rights Movement
- African-American labor, migration, or organizational history
- Tracing and mapping family histories across the color line
- Other topics relevant to the conference theme or the AAHGS mission

We are looking for presenters who have solidly researched their topic areas, are able to inform a diverse audience, and are able to deliver insightful and enjoyable presentations. We encourage the submission of advanced-level sessions for experienced researchers as well as beginner- and intermediate-level sessions.

**Submission of Proposals**

Proposals must be submitted electronically, in Microsoft Word format only, to callforpapers@aahgs.org; hard copies will not be accepted. Proposals must contain complete information suitable for inclusion in the conference syllabus.

Please submit the following information in its entirety:

- Name(s) of Presenter, address, telephone and email address

Name: ____________________________________________

Company/Institution: __________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________

City, State, Zip Code: __________________________________

Telephone: ______________________ (day)_____________________ (evening)

Email: _______________________________________________

Will you allow audio or video recording of this session? ____________

Please circle your AV requirements:

- LCD Projector  Internet  Sound

Proposals must include the following:

- Session Title
- Research skill level of audience (beginner, intermediate, advanced)
- Presenter’s biography, not to exceed fifty words
Check out the most recent news at the News blog: www.aahgsnews.wordpress.com!

Deadline and Expectations
The deadline for submission of conference proposals is Sunday, March 15, 2015. Proposals must be submitted by email to callforpapers@aahgs.org. Each person may submit as many as five proposals, and receipt of proposals will be acknowledged by email. The conference committee will review all submissions and decisions concerning proposals will be made by March 31, 2015. All persons who submit proposals will be notified of the committee’s decision by email promptly thereafter.

AAHGS will provide:
1. An honorarium of $75 for each lecture or workshop session; if a presentation or workshop is conducted by more than one person, the honorarium will be divided among the speakers
2. An LCD projector with standard laptop connectivity/support for each presenter’s use
3. Promotion of the presenter and their lecture in conference materials
4. A table for conference materials, standard microphone and podium

Conference speakers will:
1. Present for one hour, including time for questions and answers
2. Provide high quality electronic presentations that are clear and readable
3. Provide their own laptop computers
4. Provide helpful and educational handout material at their own expense, if desired

PLEASE NOTE:
1. Presenters are encouraged to register for the entire AAHGS conference, but are required to complete conference registration (with or without meals) for the day(s) of their presentation(s).
2. AAHGS will provide an LCD projector and standard projector-to-laptop connection/support. However, presenters using tablets must secure their own cables/connectivity. AAHGS cannot guarantee LCD projector-to-tablet connectivity, and encourages presenters to use laptops exclusively.
3. AAHGS will not provide lapel microphones. You may contact the hotel for pricing.

For further information please contact callforpapers@aahgs.org.
Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 73067, Washington, DC 20056-3067
www.aahgs.org

Membership Application (This application may be duplicated)

You can go to www.aahgs.org to start a new membership or to renew your AAHGS membership. If you are unable to access the website, then use this form for your membership.

The AAHGS membership is on a calendar year. The annual membership dues expire on December 31. Membership is granted after all fees are paid. Your membership provides you online access to the AAHGS Newsletter and Journal and access to the Members Only section of the website.

Please print or type all information. Missing information and/or an incomplete application causes a delay in the processing of your membership.

Check the AAHGS Membership categories for which you are submitting fees. You have the option of paying for multiple years. See bottom of this application for payment options.

☐ Individual $35/year ☐ Family $40/year ☐ Organization $45/year
☐ Life Membership (individuals only) $1,000 (may be paid in three installments within a 3 year period)*

Amount enclosed ____________________ for membership year January 1st to December 31st 2015

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Please read and complete the information below:

AAHGS Chapter to which you pay dues, if applicable. ____________________

Interested in joining a chapter? Yes ☐ No ☐

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AAHGS has my permission to release my contact information for AAHGS approved initiatives. Yes ☐ No ☐

No access to the AAHGS website to obtain the electronic AAHGS Newsletter and Journal, then check here. ☐

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☐ Credit Card: American Express, Discover, Master Card or Visa

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Mail to: AAHGS-Membership; P.O. Box 73067; Washington, DC 20056-3067

(Applications and checks mailed to any other address incur significant delays in processing)

1 First time member applications received before September 1 are granted membership through end of the current year. First time member applications received after September 1 are granted membership through December 31 of the next calendar year.

2 Renewal must be received prior to December 31 to maintain access to AAHGS Newsletters and Journals and Members Only Section of the website.

*Life Membership payments must be completed within three years of the initial payment.

There is a $35.00 fee for all returned checks.

Allow 10 -14 days for processing after receipt of your application by Membership Services

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DMR: ____________________ DDE: ____________________ DME: ____________________

Notes:

2015 Membership form rev. 9.2.2014
REMINDER: 2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE. MEMBERSHIP FORM ENCLOSED

A Symposium
The Enduring Chronicle:
Reconstruction and the Promise of Freedom

SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTERS

Dr. Heather Andrea Williams
University of Pennsylvania
History Professor

Angela Walton-Raji
Nationally Renowned Genealogist
Topic: “When Freedom Came”

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Joel Walker, Education Specialist, National Archives at Atlanta
“Documents at National Archives at Atlanta”

Velma Maia Thomas, Historian and Author
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Lisa Bratton, Tuskegee University Professor
“Court Case: 1871 Lynching of Jim Williams”

Sharon McMeans-Lukiri, Lovejoy High History Teacher
“Reconstruction Era”

Jackie Herring, Genealogist
“Big Bethel AME Church: From Slavery to Freedom”

Saturday, February 21, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
The National Archives at Atlanta
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Morrow, GA

Event is free and lunch is included
Register at: ancestryatl@gmail.com

Seating is limited, so register today!

Sponsored by the Afro-American Historical & Genealogy Society, Metro Atlanta Chapter in partnership with the National Archives at Atlanta

The First Vote

"...the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude"

The 15th Amendment to the Constitution Ratified on February 3, 1870