

African-American Genealogical Society - Cleveland, Ohio

NEWSLETTER



AAGS-Cleveland recently lost three of our members:

Henry E. Ford, Paul Glenn and Rev. Stanley Miller

They will be greatly missed and we, as genealogists, are reminded of the importance of their legacies as we strive to honor the legacies of our ancestors.

Ancestral Promise

Written by Sandy Lamere Solari

I will show importance to their existence here,
even though some paths are marked by a trail of sorrow...
left a lonely tear.

I will walk along paths marked in stone
to delve in paths that memories exited and left alone.

I will search so that time cannot erase
Ancestors of yesteryear who have left without a trace.

~Cathy Neal
AAGS Newsletter Editor

AAGS MEETINGS

Held on **4th Saturday** (exc. December)

- Meetings will be conducted virtually through Zoom sessions until libraries reopen for in-person gatherings *(An electronic link will be sent)*
- 10:30 a.m. Member briefing, followed by a Speaker presentation



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Per calendar year
Fees due by Jan. 31st

Students (to age 21) \$15 • Individual \$30
Couple \$40 • Family \$45 • Organization \$50

NEWSLETTER

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*To
Discover
Your
Ancestors
Is to
Discover
a Part
of You!*

GENEALOGY NEWS

- **“Guide to Researching Southern Claims Commission Records”** can be downloaded from the St. Louis County Public Library – includes research steps, claims by state, descriptive resources and specific questions asked of claimants and witnesses (can print or save as PDF) - <https://www.slcl.org/content/researching-southern-claims-commission-records-resources>
- Free sessions from **RootsTech Connect DNA Day 2021** - <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/series/dna-day-classes>
- **Historic DC African American grave stones relocated** – (1) <https://www.wric.com/news/virginia-news/55-historic-african-american-graves-thrown-into-the-potomac-river-moved-to-national-harmony-memorial-park/> and (2) https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/headstones-black-cemetery-potomac-river/2020/10/25/3586f0d4-0d7a-11eb-8074-0e943a91bf08_story.html *(click x on the ad)*
- **Northeast Slavery Records Index (NESRI)** – online, searchable records that identify individual enslaved persons and enslavers in New York, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Jersey - <https://nesri.commonsgc.cuny.edu/>
- **NOTE: AAGS-Cleveland plans to continue meeting by Zoom in 2022;** look for the schedule of 2022 monthly topics and presenters in the next newsletter issue.

2020 AAGS Officers

Interim President.....	Joseph Houser, Sr.	Recording Secretary....	Karen Marshall
1 st Vice President.....	Deborah Abbott	Corresponding Sec’y...	Maxine Hairston
2 nd Vice President.....	Joseph Houser, Sr.	Financial Secretary.....	Gayle Ector
Treasurer.....	Jonathan Stith		

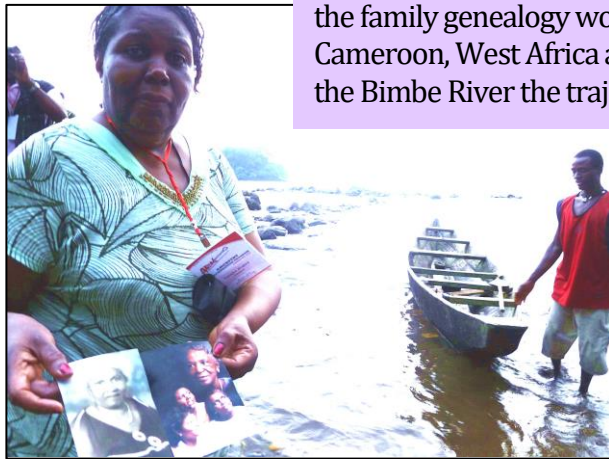
Meet Our New Member:

Regina Vaughn



Regina inherited the position of family historian from her late mother, Othella Ross (Mother) Vaughn. After the *Roots* television series, Mother Vaughn traveled the country to obtain the oral stories from the elders. Mother Vaughn published her findings in a family history book, *Sankofa: The Saga of the Tribble Clan* in 1986. Her family traces their maternal lineage in the United States to Newberry and Edgefield Counties, South Carolina (1822). Regina’s direct line, Glenn, migrated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1917 from Greenwood, South Carolina.

In 2010, Regina accepted her mother’s charge to continue the family genealogy work. She had traveled to Cameroon, West Africa and as she stood on the banks of the Bimbe River the trajectory of her life changed forever.



Regina’s most recent find was a Freedmen’s Bureau labor contract (1866) for her 2x maternal great-great-grandfather Hampton Tribble. Her next goal is to become a member of the Sons and Daughters of the Middle Passage.

Regina virtually attends Olivet Institutional Baptist Church (Cleveland) and is a member of the Vine Memorial Baptist Church (Philadelphia). She belongs to the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) Delaware Chapter, African American Genealogy Group (Philadelphia), and Main Line Genealogy Club (Berwyn, Pennsylvania).

Surnames	State	Counties	Time Frame
Floyd	South Carolina	Newberry	1822-1865 (?)
Tribble	South Carolina	Newberry, Edgefield, Saluda	1848-1928
Crump	South Carolina	Newberry	1865-present
Glenn	South Carolina	Newberry, Edgefield, Saluda, Greenwood	1815-1917
Robinson	South Carolina	Newberry	1830-1880 (?)
Reeder	South Carolina	Newberry	1848-?

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (The Freedmen's Bureau)

By Regina Vaughn • sankofa1834@gmail.com
September 8, 2021

The Freedmen's Bureau records are an extensive record set that will allow researchers to take their research **over** the "1870 Brick Wall," back five years to 1865 (the end of the U.S. Civil War). The record set gives researchers insight into their ancestors' lives after emancipation, through documents relating to food and medical assistance, land and labor contracts, banking, pensions, personal claims and much more.

Suggestions: How to Start

- **Select one ancestor** that you have researched back to 1870
- **Know** or have a general idea of the area **where your ancestor might have lived**
- **Review useful resources:**
 - [Mapping The Freedmen's Bureau](https://mappingthefreedmensbureau.com/) (field office locations, Freedman's bank locations, etc.) - <https://mappingthefreedmensbureau.com/>
Read the [Descriptive Pamphlets: In-Depth Guides for Each State](https://mappingthefreedmensbureau.com/research-guides/) - <https://mappingthefreedmensbureau.com/research-guides/>
 - [GenFriends Genealogy Chat with Bernice Bennett: Freedmen's Bureau Records](https://youtu.be/-AEmT2NJPIc) (an insightful overview) - <https://youtu.be/-AEmT2NJPIc>
 - Judy Russell, [The Legal Genealogist](https://www.legalgenealogist.com/), describes the value of the records, plus the 'one-click' process (Ancestry.com) to obtain this "deep record set" - <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2021/08/24/new-fmb-portal/>
- **Examine the records**
 - [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com/Freedmens) has a free, fully indexed collection that everyone can access - <http://www.ancestry.com/Freedmens>
 - Some records have also been indexed on the [Familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) site



Hampton Tribble

○ **Most of all** -- patience, patience. When you find a record, read it carefully. Transcribe the document, walk away from it and read it again with your "third eye."

When I found my 2x maternal great, great grandfather **Hampton Tribble's** labor contract with his former enslaver, signed with his "mark," I cried. I read how the former enslaver, Elijah Tribble, used the words: ***honest, obedient, faithful and prompt*** in the labor contract. Your emotions at first will be raw, then you will thank your ancestor for enduring and surviving so you might live and thrive to tell their story.

Ancestry.com and You:



By Cecelia McFadden

For 25 years, there's been one website that has been a search destination for family history researchers worldwide. Ancestry® has been an online repository for record sets that assist novices and professionals with the pursuit of their legacies. As the website's content and technology evolved, so did their terms and conditions (Ancestry®, 2021). The most recent policy update may have subscribers pause and thoroughly evaluate content that they choose to upload to the site to enhance their personal ancestral pursuits.

On September 1, 2021, Ancestry's® updated policy gives them perpetual, non-revocable and royalty-free rights to uploaded content from users.

(www.ancestry.com/cs/legal/termsandconditions)

This includes images and written information.

This is a significant change to the terms and conditions language. This update means that some site users will need to understand the implications of the policy as it pertains to the documentation they want to release online at the site. Some elements to consider follow.

● Know the ins and outs of intellectual property rights.

- Does a quote from a publication or snippet of prose depict the context of an ancestor on your family tree?
- Is the photo of Uncle Benny taken by you, another family member, or a professional photographer?

Your responses to such questions should drive your Ancestry® uploads from now on. Don't forget that citations from content found offline or online should always be included in any posts that one makes. With photos, whoever snapped the picture is the rightful owner (Cash, 2013). You may or may not have the rights to the photo as a result. And transferring it to Ancestry® under the new policy without understanding the implications may have unintended consequences for you going forward.

The right to use a photo is known as licensure (Cash, 2013). According to the United States Copyright Office, with photos created before 1978, rights expire 95 years from first publication or 120 years from the year of creation, whichever expires first. Photos created after January 1, 1978, have a copyright duration for the life of the creator plus 70 years domestically (www.copyright.gov). So older photos may not be an issue. With written material, citation always applies regardless of the creation timestamp for known authors.

● Be strategic with your uploads.

As discussed in our last newsletter, you should have a plan for curating your digital family history content. The same applies with what you choose to submit to Ancestry®.

Ancestry® is a for-profit enterprise with over 3 million subscribers (www.ancestry.com/corporate/about-ancestry/company-facts).

You are making an investment in the website as a subscriber and it serves a purpose for you.

Is it a public replica of your offline genealogy? What is your intent for photo and content submissions? Are you making connections with potential extended family or are your posts an extension of your social media footprint on the Internet?

Be clear about your presence on this valuable tool.

Without a research question, plan, or knowledge of content digital rights, you could be exposing yourself to unnecessary risk.

- **Next steps.** Once you know your content rights and understand your purpose for using Ancestry®, create tasks that support your viewpoints. Review the content you've uploaded to the website. Take inventory of photos or stories you've copied from other users. If you choose to remove content, do so. But understand if others have copied the information for use in their version of a family tree profile, that data will still fall under the new policy because it still exists on the site. If there's a treasured photo of a notable ancestor, you may want to coordinate with other subscribers prior to removal.

Conclusion. When Ancestry® went public with this change August 3, 2021, there were many comments and concerns from their user community. Not all feedback was favorable. Since the policy update, they have offered a rationale for the change and have said that "It was never intended to enable Ancestry to do anything with our users' content other than facilitate a vibrant family history community that brings the value of personal discoveries to all." (Ancestry®, 2021).

Understand, however, that the new language in legal terms does grant them copyright over all content submitted to their site. It has been and still will be up to you to upload content, make it public or private, and remove it once its purpose is fulfilled. But going forward, a bit more consideration may not only be prudent, but necessary. We'd love to hear your thoughts on this and other technology topics. Contact us at newschair@aagsclev.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

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AAGS ACTIVITIES

Supporting Genealogy In-House & In the Community

AAGS Meeting

June 26, 2021

“Say Amen: Going To Church with the Master – Finding the Mother Church”



Char McCargo Bah

Author | Freelance Writer | Professional Genealogist | Independent Historian
CEO/Owner of FindingThingsforU, LLC.

Her excellent presentation covered:

- The research necessary up front (vital, probate & other records, state histories, county borders, migration info, etc.)
- Types of church records
- Nuances among denominations
- Black and White attendance at historical churches
- Contacting a historian, archivist or community member for assistance

(One of many great tips: Be aware of the culture of the area to enable people to get comfortable enough to share info with you.)

AAGS Meeting

July 24, 2021

“Member Experiences”

Members shared unique discoveries they made during 2020, offering the methods and tools learned that helped advance their research.

Member: Marilyn Wainio

“You’re Never Done Researching! Now I Need to Write”

Marilyn said she enjoys researching but finds it hard to complete. So, she made the commitment to research, organize and write a story about the Semple family of Wellington, OH. Developing a timeline worksheet helped to document her findings, identify missing pieces and determine additional connections.

Member: Theresa Odoms

“Continuing my Mother’s Family History Journal”

Her mother’s book *Grandmother’s Gift of Memories* held a lot of interesting history about family. Theresa’s grandfather got a bronze star in World War II. Through Genealogy Bank, she found multiple articles about his heroism. Using his listed regiment, she will obtain more military info and hopefully a photo thru NARA.

Member: Dr. Deborah Abbott

“Who are the New York Celtics Basketball Team?”

Being a self-described basketball fanatic, she outlined the methods and strategies she used to research a team she had never heard of. Using oral history for Frank Piunno, school records, various newspapers, an auction site, a book found at Cleveland Public Library and a death notice, she solved the personal mystery.

Member: Marion McDuffie

“My Genealogy Brick Wall Bay City, Michigan”

Tired of seeing missing death info on her pedigree chart, Marion reached out to a reference librarian who helped find info on her great grandfather Abraham Washington Chandler through probate and other records. This led to corresponding with a Bay City, MI researcher who found his 1869 funeral info through church records.

Member: Joseph Houser

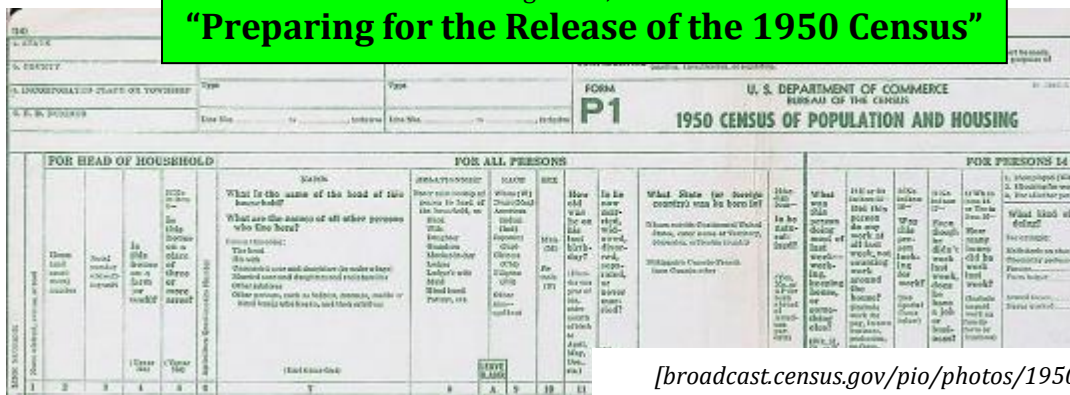
“Look What I Found”

With info from a Youngstown, OH newspaper obituary of his relative Carly Houser, he discovered enough to follow up on maiden names, locate names on a city directory and determine relationships on censuses. He indicated that newspapers led him to realize where ancestors worked and enabled him to contact librarians.



Carla Cegielski

AAGS Meeting
 August 28, 2021
“Preparing for the Release of the 1950 Census”



[broadcast.census.gov/pio/photos/1950/]

By Cathy Neal

This presentation was essential and so timely. **Carla Cegielski** (family history researcher, lecturer and website designer) did a consummate job getting folks ready for the April 21, 2022 release of the much-awaited 1950 census. Right from the start, the session contained plenty of “*I didn’t know that*” details about census slogans, stats, coupons, the enumerator’s portfolio and interview practices.

Carla explained:

- Who was counted; where they were counted; how they were categorized
- What questions were asked, including supplemental ones for sampled respondents
- How gathered data was microfilmed
- Additional forms completed for government purposes but destroyed (since not for public use)
- How to obtain info from censuses that are not yet available to the public

A primary point: upon release, 1950 census info from NARA (National Archives & Records Administration) will not be indexed. Result: enumeration district (ED) numbers will be of utmost importance. Carla emphasized the need to be able to search by ED until records are digitized, then detailed how the Stephen P. Morse website is extremely useful for determining ED descriptions and locating ED maps. Since ED numbers vary each census year and counties were not microfilmed in chronological order, she also provided some ways to narrow down searches to specific census pages vs. scouring thousands of pages to find the place of interest. She mentioned that rural areas tend to have fewer ED numbers than higher populated areas and that city directories and *Google Maps* are good sources to pinpoint/compare residences. To summarize her main message: Review your records to ensure you’re aware of where persons of interest were residing within the timeframe and know how to find and use geographic ED sources. The complementary handout had a ton of resources, references and links.

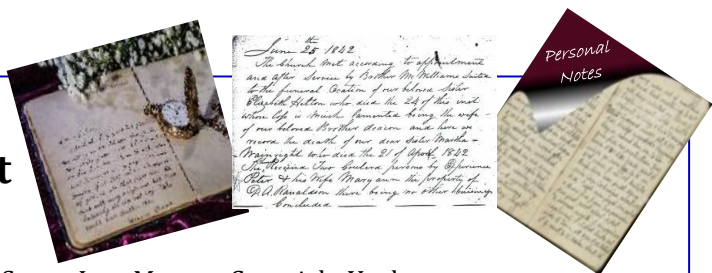
Naturally, the sooner volunteers perform indexing, the faster the census records will be of greater use for genealogists. It will be a great opportunity for AAGS members to play a role in the indexing project.

PLUS

Afterwards, **Gary Franklin** gave a compelling account of “Making the most of learning opportunities during the pandemic – Maximizing the use of genealogy institutes, webinars and local genealogy societies.” Like the rest of us, he had to curtail genealogy trips and activities. **Unlike** most of us, he took full advantage. Describing all the ways he adapted through attending virtual conferences, institute programs, webinars, videos, podcasts, and participating in genealogy groups highlights how quality learning *can* continue, despite obstacles. He is such an inspiration!

4 Steps to Transcribing a Document

By Sunny McClellan Morton



Source credit: “Four Steps to Transcribing a Document,” by Sunny Jane Morton. Copyright Yankee Publishing, Inc. URL: www.familytreemagazine.com/strategies/the-toolkit-lost-in-transcription/

It’s an age-old genealogical practice: painstakingly transcribing the details of oral history interviews, handwritten documents, tombstone inscriptions and other sources. Your typed versions capture the content of sources you can’t “copy,” and even serve as backups for fragile originals.

Whether you work with old love letters or church registers, though, creating a good typescript can be challenging. How do you represent illegible words? Should you correct “creative” spellings? Follow these guidelines to create a typescript that’s nearly as valuable—and usually more readable—than the original source.

1 Fill in the blanks.

Don’t let long-forgotten handwriting styles, inconsistent grammar and ink smudges on old documents scare you. First, make an initial pass through the document. Using a computer or word-processor, type whatever you understand at first glance. Leave asterisks (*) in place of letters or words you can’t read.

As you become familiar with the handwriting, you’ll be able to interpret more—for tough passages, try the deciphering tricks in the January 2009 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*. Sections that remain a mystery will be permanently marked with asterisks.

2 Stick with their spellings.

It’s tempting to correct Grandma’s grammar, clarify misstatements or delete boring parts—but type the text just as it reads. Don’t change even misspellings or abbreviations. These details give insight into the past, and add charm and individuality. When you reproduce the text faithfully, you also open the door for reinterpreting it as new research surfaces.

But you can change punctuation. Many old handwritten texts aren’t punctuated at all—or even divided into paragraphs—which would make your transcription difficult for others to comprehend. Consider making a typescript without added punctuation as your “original,” then create a readable second version with punctuation and paragraphs.

3 Re-create the appearance.

Try to duplicate visual details with your word processor’s text-formatting functions: bold, italics, strikethrough and so forth. Re-create special spacing or text placement, too. If a date appears at the top right margin of the original, place it there in your typed version.

When typing columns of data—say, from an old ledger or census—consider entering it in a table or spreadsheet, if you know how to use one. Values (weights, dates) should be typed exactly as they appear: 3d or 5/12.

4 Add meaning.

Afraid your readers won’t understand 3d or 5/12? Itching to modernize a spelling? You can add your comments, clarifications and corrections in one of two ways: brackets [] within the text or footnotes/endnotes. If you use brackets, note that the material inside them is yours.

Finally, proofread your work. Read the original aloud slowly and check it against your document every few words. Better yet, have a partner read it to you as you follow along in your copy—this process catches a lot of mistakes.

In the end, your typescript will be true to the original content. And though your version may not seem as priceless as a faded love letter, yours will be probably be read and shared long after the first has crumbled away.



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