

African-American Genealogical Society - Cleveland, Ohio

NEWSLETTER



The calendar has turned over to a new year. Here's our great virtual line-up ahead:

AAGS-Cleveland Monthly Programs

(Subject to minor change)

| DATE | TOPIC | PRESENTER |
|----------------|--|---|
| January 22 | Genealogy Check-Up | Sandra Beane-Milton , AAGS-Cleveland Education Chair |
| February 26 | Identifying Family Photographs | Maureen Taylor , "The Photo Detective," <i>Family Tree</i> <i>Magazine</i> columnist |
| March 26 | Cyndi's List in Practice | Cyndi Ingle , founder of <i>Cyndi's</i> <i>List</i> , a categorized index to online genealogical resources |
| April 23 | Using Newspapers | Timothy Pinnick , professional family historian, author, lecturer |
| May 28 | When Children are Telling the Story | Tierra Cotton Kellow , creator of <i>Pressing My Way: Genealogy</i> Blog & Web Series |

(Continued on page 3)

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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(March, June, September, December)

Editor reserves the right to edit items submitted for publication.
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*To
Discover
Your
Ancestors
Is to
Discover
a Part
of You!*

GENEALOGY NEWS

- **RootsMagic** has released its enhanced version 8 (see newsletter page 6 for additional info on this software tool used to store and manage family data) - <https://www.rootsmagic.com>
- The article “Ancestry offers a missing link for Black families with the release of **Freedmen's Bureau records**” features great context from professional genealogist Nicka Sewell-Smith and includes family history from an interview of AAGS member Regina Vaughn - <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2021/10/29/black-ancestry-freedmens-bureau>
- **Find A Grave** announced a new system in response to non-family members posting memorials on its site - <https://support.findagrave.com/s/article/Memorials-for-those-who-are-recently-deceased>
- **Ratified Indian Treaties** are online (free) - through the Indigenous Digital Archives’ IDA Treaties Explorer.3 - <https://digitreaties.org>. Can select by treaties, cessions, tribes and places/maps. Guide page provides print and video resources to help understand what the treaties are, their historical context and the research possible using the Treaties Explorer site.
- Article, “11 Must-See **Genealogy TV Shows** That Will Inspire You” - <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/entertainment/must-see-genealogy-tv/>
- **Ancestry.com** blog: <https://blogs.ancestry.com/cm/Walking-with-my-enslaved-ancestors/>

AAGS Officers

Interim President..... Joseph Houser, Sr.
1st Vice President..... Deborah Abbott
2nd Vice President..... Joseph Houser, Sr.

Treasurer..... Jonathan Stith
Corresponding Sec’y... Maxine Hairston
Financial Secretary..... Gayle Ector

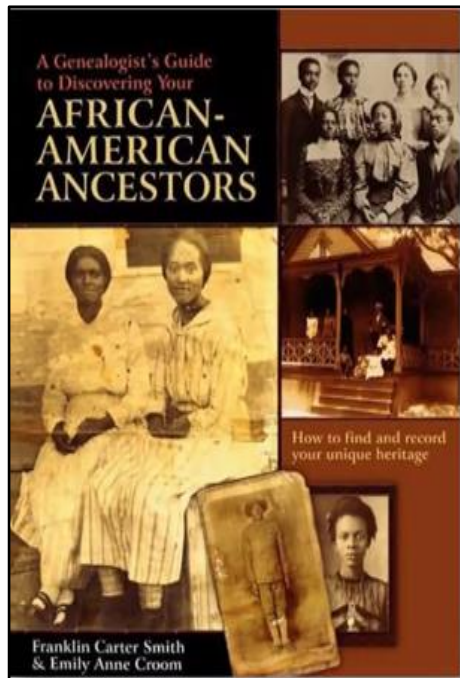
| 2022 | TOPIC | PRESENTER |
|-----------------|---|--|
| June 25 | How to Use the Allen County Public Library Website | Curt Witcher , ACPL Genealogy Center Director of Special Collections |
| July 23 | Funeral Homes and Cemeteries | Dr. Deborah Abbott , professional genealogist, lecturer |
| August 27 | Using Technology in our Genealogy Research | J. Mark Lowe , professional genealogist and lecturer |
| September 24 | The Importance of the Law in African American Research | LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson , author, certified genealogist and educator |
| October 22 | Prison Records | Dr. Deborah Abbott , professional genealogist, lecturer Susan Kaufman , Sr. Mgr - Houston TX Public Library, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research |
| November 26 | Pearls of Our Family: Step Up and Be Counted! | AAGS members share their research discoveries made using new methods |
| December | No Meeting | |



Black History Month

February will undoubtedly bring out a ton of black history learning opportunities. Stay aware of programs, presentations and activities of interest. The more you're exposed to history in the regions of your ancestors, the more personal narrative you can give to the dates and facts that you've discovered during your research.

PUBLICATIONS



A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors

By Franklin Carter Smith & Emily Croom

This comprehensive, well-organized, "how-to" guide focuses on pre-Civil War research and includes case studies, time-saving forms, examples, outlines, maps and other aids to document accurately.



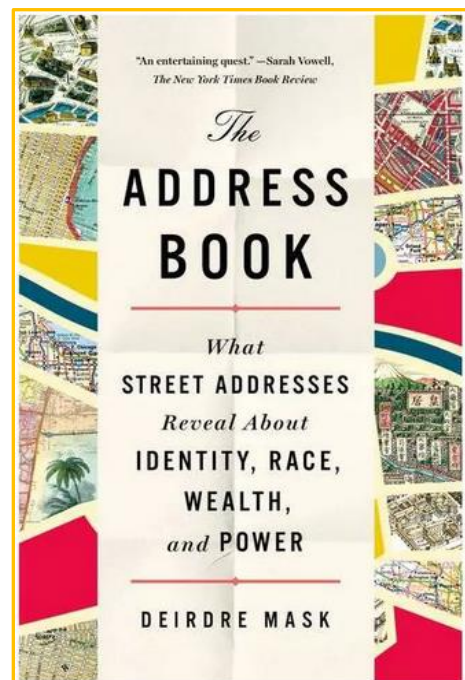
As of January 1, 2022, works **published in 1926** have now been released to the public, **free of copyright restrictions**. That means thousands of books, sheet music, films, photos and more have entered the **public domain** in the U.S.

Author: **Dierdre Mask**

On *Time Magazine's* 100 Must-Read Books of 2020

"Filled with fascinating people and histories, *The Address Book* illuminates the complex and sometimes hidden stories behind street names and their power to name, to hide, to decide who counts, who doesn't—and why."

-Amazon.com



AAGS ACTIVITIES

Supporting Genealogy In-House & In the Community



Robin Heise / Amy Czubak



Franklin Carter Smith

AAGS Meeting – Sep. 25

“Locating Local Manumission Records: Antebellum, Ohio – The Journey North”

What a knowledgeable duo. Robin is Records Manager/Archivist at the Greene County Records Center & Archives. Amy is an ACA certified archivist/Records Center Technician at the Montgomery County Records Center & Archives.

They both have a strong presence in preservation, archiving activities and projects throughout Ohio.

Much was learned about projects associated with the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board.

They assuredly hit their goals for attendees by covering:

- Difference between manumission records, freedom papers and enumeration records
- Where records may be located (probate courts, records and archive centers, county auditor offices, county recorder offices, historical societies, genealogical societies, county libraries)
- Other records that may assist with African American genealogy research
- Following the journey of African Americans from property to personhood through records

AAGS Meeting – Oct. 23

“African American Genetic Genealogy: A Guided and Focused Approach”

The subject of DNA can be daunting. Fortunately, AAGS had the ideal person to break down terms and help interpret DNA from a family history perspective.

Carter Smith provided a realistic approach to select the appropriate test type/testing company, and then analyze the results. (Simplify those centimorgans!)

Since genetic genealogy can be more challenging for African Americans (fewer matches, smaller trees, enslaved distant relatives, etc.), he offered strategies and tips to obtain better outcomes. In particular, he highlighted the importance of identifying regions/shared communities and of comparing DNA results with known (or similar) locales, along with surname clusters found in your “paper trail” research.

Franklin Carter Smith is a retired Senior Library Service Specialist from the Clayton Library for Genealogy Research, Houston (TX) Public Library.

Member Barbara Essex won a signed copy of his book, *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors*.



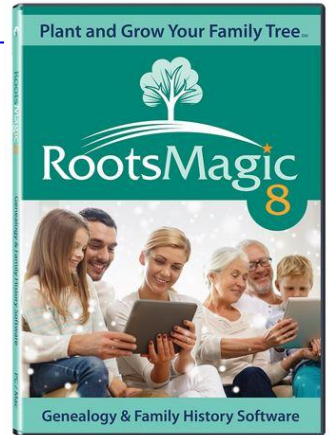
AAGS Meeting – Nov. 27

“Pearls of Our Family” Research Findings of AAGS members

Cathy Neal relayed the step-by-step method she applied to gap-fill a portion of her husband’s family history. Using oral history, she uncovered twists along the way-- evidenced by vital records, censuses, city directories, a draft registration and social security application. Analysis (plus heeded advice to review *every line* on a document) eventually led to success.

Presenter **J. Mark Lowe** imparted another dose of his special wisdom to members, this time focusing on overlooked research techniques (using personal examples).

Having known many of his relatives, he’s heard multiple stories and collected numerous photos. He created a timeline, comparing what he learned through oral history with the records in his possession. Noting his research leaned toward one grandparent more than the other led to reviewing documents through different eyes. He delved into obituaries, newspapers, railroad records and city directories, and has even requested medical records to flesh out a more complete picture of an ancestor that he’s compared to by family members. He also noted that inspecting photos more closely pulls your eye to small details that may have previously gone unnoticed.



RootsMagic

Version 8

Is now available!

New features include:

- enhanced person editing
- streamlined search capabilities
- ability to edit multiple persons simultaneously
- native Windows and Mac support
- new report selections (incl. fan charts)
- reusable citations
- easy switching between different types of info
- ability to save reports directly to Word (.docx) or Excel (.xlsx) files
- community support

AAGS members can receive

RootsMagic 8

at a **discount**

Limited Offer!

(first come, first served)

Send requests to president@aagsclev.org

1950 U.S. Federal Census Update

<https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/1950-census-access?>

“1950 Census Release Will Offer Enhanced Digital Access, Public Collaboration Opportunity”
National Archives News | Washington DC | December 14, 2021

With the scheduled April 1, 2022 release of 1950 Census records a little more than three months away, the National Archives is completing efforts to digitize those records and using technology to make them more accessible than ever.

Employees have worked on digitizing and indexing the records and developing and testing a new, dedicated 1950 Census website. The new website will include a name search function powered by an Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology tool [to transcribe records].

National Archives officials are encouraging interested members of the public to use the transcription tool and assist the agency to make the records as accurate as possible.

Speaking of the Census...

(Submitted by Cathy Neal)

Did You Know?

In 1790, a \$20 fine was levied against anyone who refused to answer the enumerator's questions. The government and the enumerator shared the money equally.¹ (\$606 in today's dollars²)

The 1900 census is the only one available that indicates the person's month and year of birth.³

The designations of “house-keeper” and “keeping house” may not necessarily mean the same thing.⁴

1850, 1860 & 1870 Agricultural Schedules

Not every farm was included. Small farms with lower production or lower acreage were excluded.⁵

(To interpret occupations, check enumerator instructions on how they were specifically told to record info on the census)

References

- ¹ **Hinckley, Kathleen W.** 2002. *Your Guide to the Federal Census for genealogists, researchers, and family historians*. Cincinnati, OH: Betterway Books, an imprint of F&W Publications, Inc.
- ² **CPI Inflation Calculator.** (2022). <https://www.officialdata.org/us/inflation/>
- ³ **National Archives.** Retrieved January 12, 2022. <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1850-1940>
- ⁴ **Genealogy Quick Start.** (2021, December). <https://www.youtube.com/c/GenealogyQuickStart> [Note: in the 1870 U.S. federal census instructions, “house-keepers” received a wage or salary working outside of the home vs. “keeping house” for immediate family, per genealogist/author Michael John Neill.]
- ⁵ **National Archives.** Retrieved January 12, 2022. <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/nonpopulation#ag>



Genealogical Events

Conferences:

In-person and virtual

MAR 3-5 † **RootsTech Connect 2022**

Free global **virtual** event • Mix of on-demand, livestream & interactive sessions • Theme: “Choosing Connection” • rootstech.org

APR 27-30 † **OGS (Ohio Genealogical Society)**

In-person conference • “Jazz It Up” • Great Wolf Lodge, Mason, OH • Topics include The Jazz Age, prohibition, temperance societies, immigration, ethnic social clubs, census records and other areas • ogsconference.org

MAY 24-28 † **NGS Family History Conference**

(National Genealogical Society) • **In-person**, Sacramento, CA • “Our American Mosaic” • nsgenealogy.org

JUN 19-24 & JUL 10-15 † **GRIP**

(Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh) • **Virtual** courses, live sessions via Zoom • LaRoche College • Pittsburgh, PA • gripitt.org

JUL 12-14 † **MAAGI**

(Midwest African American Genealogy Institute) • **In-person**, Fort Wayne, IN • Genealogy Center at Allen County Public Library • maagiinstitute.org

JUL 24-29 † **IGHR**

(Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research/ Georgia Genealogical Society) • **Virtual**, Athens, GA • ighr.gagensociety.org • facebook.com/IGHR.Georgia

OCT † **AAHGS**

(Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society) • To be determined • aahgs.org • facebook.com/aahgs

Check Sites for Additional Events

- **AAGHSC** (Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago) • aaghsc.org
- **CDRT** (Cleveland District Roundtable) • usgenwebsites.org/OHCuyahoga/Activities/index.html
- **Detroit Public Library** Family History Festival • Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society • fhwgs.org
- **Franklin County Genealogical Historical Society** Columbus, OH • fcghs-oh.org
- **Indiana African American Gen Group** • iaagg.org
- **Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group** • oaaghg.com

Webinars / Free Online Resources

- **Allen County Public Library** genealogy programs - acpl-cms.wise.oclc.org/genealogy
- **Genealogy QuickStart** (hosted by Shamele Jordan) - broadcasts / videos / discussions • youtube.com/c/GenealogyQuickStart • facebook.com/GenealogyQuickStartTV
- **GeneaWebinars, Online Meetings & Hangouts** - blog.geneawebinars.com/p/calendar.html
- **Georgia Genealogical Society Webinars** - gagensociety.org/events/webinars
- **Legacy Family Tree Webinars** - familytreewebinars.com
(Closed captioning added for those with difficulty hearing or with understanding English)
- **Southern California Genealogical Society Webinar Series** - scsgsgenealogy.com/
- **BlackProGen LIVE** (hosted by Nicka Smith) - web broadcasts / videos / chats • facebook.com/BlackProGenLIVE • youtube.com/user/whoisnickasmith



2022 Tool Spotlight

By Cecelia McFadden

First and foremost, welcome to 2022! Twenty percent of the current century is considered archived. Can you believe it? Plus, we're less than 90 days away from the 1950 Census release (more in the next newsletter). In our last column, we discussed policy changes with Ancestry® pertaining to content uploads.

In 2021, we also discussed strategies that would make your genealogy tech experience more rewarding. By now, you should have launched a digital archive project, created your own genealogy specific email account, created a virtual file storage location, and reserved a physical file storage location for electronic files. Those are all essentials for dealing with family history digital content.

As we move forward in 2022, I'd like to discuss another essential tech gizmo:



Web Video Conferencing



Introduction & Definition.

Ready? Most weren't (in March 2020) for the halt to onsite meetings and events and the substitution of virtual gatherings for society calendar moments. The advent of the pandemic and its presence has altered how and when we connect to our genealogy learning opportunities and physical people network. To illustrate, AAGS will continue to meet virtually for the 2022 calendar year in support of this paradigm shift. Consequently, if you didn't know what Zoom® was then, you most certainly do now. Video conferencing existed last century, but it was cumbersome, work-based and cost-prohibitive.

Web video conferencing is an online meeting that takes place over the internet to connect conferencing systems with virtual meeting room tools accessible on personal devices like mobile phones, personal computers and tablets.

If you haven't done so already, please invest in a web video conferencing tool and the supporting infrastructure to access AAGS virtual meetings and more. The advantages are clear. Web video conferencing is a time, travel and money saver for genealogy enthusiasts. Video conferencing has cut down on environment carbon emissions while being more engaging than audio conferencing. Have you made an investment in a web video conferencing package? Some considerations follow.

The Free and the Paid.

How much time do you spend in web video conferencing events? Are you a host or an attendee? Do you have to share content or collaborate on content presented? Would you like to retain the event or an element of the event like the presentation? Answers to these questions will determine whether you will purchase a web video conferencing system in addition to the infrastructure needed to access events.

In general, most popular video conferencing tools offer a **free version** of their paid product that's downsized in terms of functionality and access. Zoom®, for example, is free for a meeting under 40 minutes, with less than four attendees and without recording capability. The most popular tools are Zoom®, Google Hangouts®* (soon to be Meet®), Cisco Webex®, GotoMeeting® and Microsoft's Skype®. The **paid versions** of all former tools include the ability to enable and save event recordings, create meeting transcripts, experience HD quality video streaming and support audio and text chat simultaneously during events.

Note: Features and **paid functionality for Google premium users will port over to Meet® without any effort from users. Users of the **free** version of Google video conferencing may experience some interruption in access or service and should follow transition instructions when attempting to log in.*

Conclusion. We're approaching the two-year mark of a world impacted by the pandemic. While we don't know when the pandemic will wane, we do know that our pursuit of family history will continue. Make the investment in web video conferencing that fits your budget. Leverage it as another tool to activate learning, collaboration and building a community with your family and Society colleagues. You'll be glad you did. Let us know which investment you made and why. 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.

10 Questions to Rate Your Readiness for Genealogy Success

Although the full *Genealogy Gems* article was published in 2021, a review of these questions is good for ANY year:

- 1) Have you selected a place to start?
- 2) Have you developed a project research question?
- 3) Do you have a research plan for your genealogy project?
- 4) Do you have the research forms you need?
- 5) Have you established your filing system?
[incl. digital]
- 6) Do you have the supplies you need on hand?
- 7) Have you settled on a file naming scheme?
- 8) Are you prepared to make copies? *[incl. scanning]*
- 9) Is your computer backed up to the Cloud?
- 10) Have you scheduled ongoing education time?

<https://lialouisecooke.com/2021/01/17/genealogy-research-plan/>

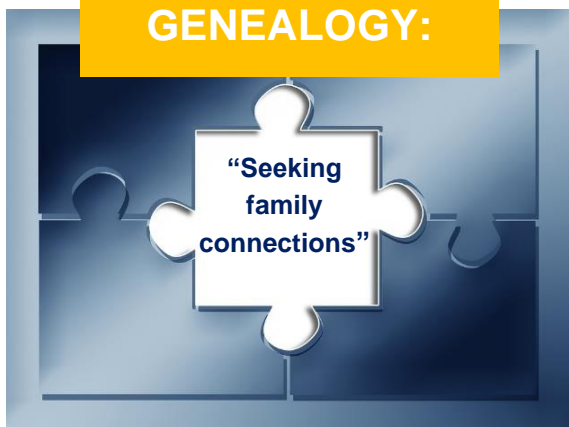
Edna Johnson



Farewell, Edna: former AAGS Corresponding Secretary, research trip buddy and genealogy friend.

Fellow member Sherry Jackson recalls: *"I knew Edna from childhood and Outhwaite Elementary School in the 1940s. When I first came to AAGS meetings in Maple Heights before joining, she came over and asked me if I remembered her. Since then, we were in genealogy classes together and were roommates when we went to Allen County. We had great conversations. She will be missed."*

GENEALOGY:



Genealogists know how to **“Seek and Find”**--
Plus, research in multiple directions.

Can you find the words below?
 (vertical, horizontal, backwards & diagonal)



Submitted by LaVera Wingfield:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| cousin | documents |
| descendant | folklore |
| family | grandparent |
| history | MTDNA |
| maternal | newspaper |
| obituary | paternal |
| research | slavery |
| social media | social security |

(Solution on next page)



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Word search solution:

