

*African-American Genealogical Society - Cleveland, Ohio*

NEWSLETTER



**On the road again.**

This edition will feature our fun research excursion to the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) in Indiana from August 22-24 (our first post-pandemic AAGS-sponsored trip).

Most went by bus, a few by car. In all, 47 motivated individuals headed to Fort Wayne. There were members from AAGS-Cleveland, Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group, Jewish Genealogy Society of Cleveland, the East Cuyahoga County Genealogical Society, Lake County Genealogical Society, plus an interested family historian.

**AAGS MEETINGS**

- Held on **4<sup>th</sup> Saturday** (exc. December) in hybrid format  
(In-person, along with Zoom)  
Shaker Heights Library  
16500 Van Aken Blvd.  
Shaker Hts., OH 44120
- 10:00-10:15 a.m. – socialization  
10:15-10:30 a.m. – info/announcements  
10:30 a.m. – presentations/discussions



**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!*



**AAGS  
& Other  
Genealogy News**



- **Metro Cleveland Alliance of Black School Educators** hosted the **Juneteenth Awards Celebration** on June 19 at Garfield Heights HS to celebrate African American freedom, culture and achievements. Joseph Jordan, Penny Jordan, Maxine Hairston and Joseph Houser Sr. represented AAGS for this event.
- **Cleveland Public Library (CPL)**, Memorial-Nottingham Branch held a “Senior Day” event on August 29; Dr. Deborah Abbott promoted the AAGS-CPL research clinics, with Karen Parks, Linda Cameron and Joseph Houser Sr.
- October 5 – **Family History Day** at the Downtown Cleveland Public Library – Topics: AI, DNA, archives, methodology, migration - <https://cpl.libcal.com/calendar/events/familyhistoryday2024>
- **Internet Archive** (an essential resource for genealogists) **loses copyright appeal** – <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2024/09/09/ia-loses-appeal/>



*Past AAGS member **Theodore W. Long, Jr.** died July 11 - Our condolences to the family*

**2024-2025 AAGS Officers**

President.....	Joseph Houser, Sr.	Treasurer.....	Gayle Ector
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President.....	Deborah Abbott	Financial Secretary.....	Ellecia Gant
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President.....	Joseph Jordan	Corresponding Sec’y...	Maxine Hairston
		Recording Sec’y.....	unfilled

## ACPL Research Trip - It Takes Preparation

- **June 22 AAGS meeting** | ACPL Genealogy Center Director **Curt Witcher** presented, “Preparing for a Research Trip to Allen County Public Library” covering various tips for a successful experience
- **July 27 AAGS meeting** | Our own **Joseph Jordan** presented “How to Use RootsMagic 9” and later created two videos on how to set up “RootsMagic ToGo,” using a PC or a Mac
- **August 12 general workshop** | More hands-on conducted by AAGS at the Shaker Heights Library

**Ellecia Gant** coordinated the “who, what, when, where & how” for the trip. This included participant communications along with food, travel, hotel, restaurant and other arrangements. Whew!



Throughout the three days at ACPL, there was much to take in.

### Day One – “Lively Launch”

- Our energetic bunch assembled at the Genealogy Center, where Genealogy Services Manager Allison DePrey explained the floor plans and location of collections & services
- Next came an informative special tour of the staff-only materials handling unit (see page 4)
- **Dr. Deborah Abbott** made special arrangements for four genealogy experts to be available to assist with our needs (Deborah Deal, Susan Kaufman, Karen Livsey and Kim Harrison)
- Then it was “on.” Members were in every room, “on the hunt.” After a full day of traveling, touring and tackling resources, energy levels were not quite the same as when we arrived.

### Day Two – “Rejuvenated”

- Research resumed in the morning, followed by a useful ‘Lunch & Learn’ – Curt, Allison, Kate, Debbie Abbott and other professionals offered a Q&A session full of helpful advice
- After extensive researching, 29-30 gathered for a group dinner at a local Italian restaurant

### Day Three – “Last Chance”

- Most of us were on a mission, spending all available time pursuing every remaining possibility



(Lunch & Learn)



(Group dinner)

ACPL staff was superb in responding to questions, explaining where reference material was located, demonstrating how to use PC’s, copier/scanner/microfilm equipment and offering research options.

## ACPL Materials Handling – Behind the Scenes



This is where the process begins. Aaron Smith, Genealogy Materials Manager, laid out the details. ACPL purchases lots and lots of books and is especially interested in county material. Books and periodicals are received by acquisitioners, who do a tremendous amount of cataloging (labeling, stamping, etc.). After being cataloged, items are rolled down the conveyor to the processors.

Depending on the item, things can get tricky. Oversized items such as large maps are handled at a foldout station. Old newspapers don't last very long. Books with torn papers or damaged bindings have to be repaired. Notebooks and loose papers require extra work. Aaron pointed out that people's research is valued (preferably organized).



ACPL partners with the Family History Center (LDS) and Internet Archive to get items digitized. There are multiple areas for this work, with the use of flatbed and cradle scanners for various levels of quality control. Along with the expensive machine investment, several LDS staff are in a separate scanning center full time.

Rows and rows, stacks and stacks are in storage (shown by Logan Knight, Genealogy Librarian). ACPL differs from public libraries in several ways: it has multiple vs. single copies, it works with numerous genealogy and historical societies, it contends with different languages and it receives items from around the world.



Aaron encourages donating historical material for posterity (by families, churches, associations, etc.). ACPL's collections are distinct because of specialized documents (e.g., bibles, military & other).

# Speaking of donations...



Now

Then

Patricia (Bell) Southern brought along two East Technical High School yearbooks (Cleveland, Ohio) for ACPL to add to its collection. She was in the graduating class of 1967.

Pat's surnames of interest are:

- In Amite County, Mississippi: Bell, Johnson, Robinson, Pinkney, Hunt, Jenkins
- In Polk County, Georgia: Price, Towns, Southern
- In Rhea County and Megis County, Tennessee: Brown, Southern, Suddeth, Suthers, Southington

One of her finds: the original documentation of her husband's delayed birth record.

It so happens that another AAGS member, Allen Williams, was in the same graduating class as Pat.

Though he came looking for Ford and Williams ancestors in the Georgia counties of Baldwin and Jones -- or the Ford family in Madison County, Alabama -- Allen pivoted from specific family history once he got to the library.

He said, "When I opened a book about county history and started reading, I couldn't put it down. I found a lot of histories on different territories and it was pretty interesting learning about first settlements, early lands, Indian treaties, and other activities around the time the county was formed. I said "Wow." I like history, but didn't think I would be reading this much about the background of the counties I'm interested in and the surrounding areas. I took a lot of time reviewing the books, which had a lot of source information."

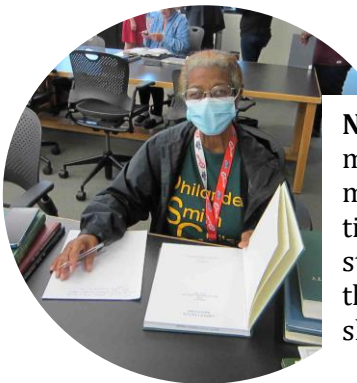
## In the Bookshelves



**Frances Kelley** was excited to see the book she authored highlighting the life and accomplishments of her father Martin C. Kelley.



**Maxine Hairston** spent the most time with books and downloaded a lot about county histories in South Carolina: details on slavery, the education system, churches (including her church of interest) and more.



**Norma Wadley** - "I met my goals. I pulled out so many books, my feet were tired. I felt sorry for the staff that had to return all those heavy books to the shelves."



### Research COMMENTS:

"I found some supportive documentation of marriages that I didn't have before."

"The 'Lunch & Learn' was a great way to network and get conversations flowing."

"Got good advice about using the FAN method (friends, associates & neighbors) for more leads."

"The professional genealogists were so helpful at the 'Lunch & Learn' and during one-on-ones."

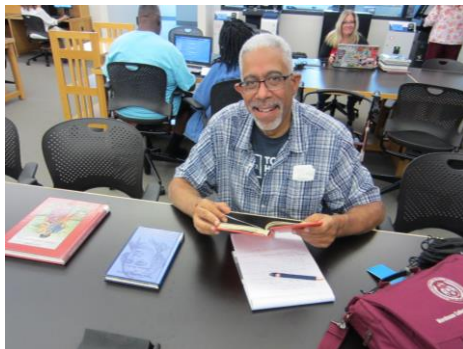
#### *Their profiles -*

- **Deborah Deal** - from Southern Ohio | OGS trustee | past owner of GRIP
- **Susan Kaufman** - from Peoria, Illinois | past manager, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research
- **Karen Livsey** - from western New York | active in DAR, previously with NGS
- **Kim Harrison** - from rural Michigan | previously with Ancestry

**"Overall, the trip was an outstanding learning experience."**



## With the Periodicals



**Gary Franklin** – “I spent the day primarily in databases there that I don’t have access to at home or at my local libraries. When I do that, I can be lost in them, especially the historic newspapers, for hours!”

It was **Ruth Perry’s** first time at ACPL. She was amazed at the amount of info--so many resources. She mentioned that staff were very patient as she became more familiar with the facility. Though she did not find info about an in-law’s will, she did find surprising newspaper articles about her grandfather in Arkansas.



**Leslie Johnson** uncovered intriguing facts about her uncle “Jesse James,” his multiple wives and the (previously unknown) location of where he was buried.

### NOTE:

Copies of AAGS-Cleveland newsletter publications are kept at ACPL in the “Current & Unbound Periodicals” section

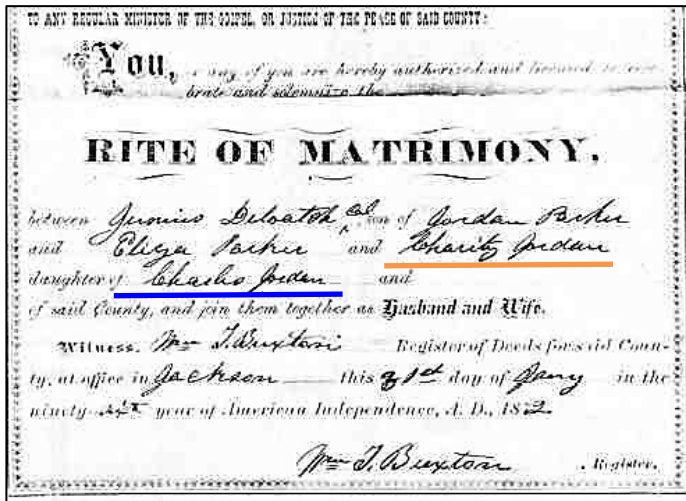


Penny & Joe Jordan

## At the PCs

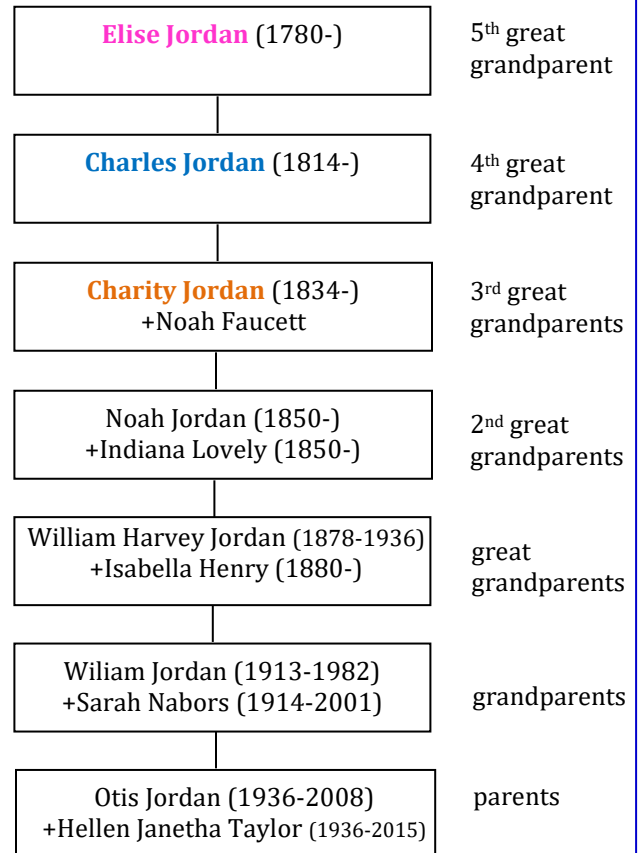
“Penny and I went to Allen County Public Library to continue the search on the Jordan family. We had gotten back to **Charity Jordan**, a slave born in 1834. We had a marriage index and a marriage certificate. It turned out that this was a case of two different marriages with a first name spelled differently on one of the documents.

Clearing up that dilemma led to confirming that Charity Jordan is the daughter of **Charles Jordan** per her 1872 North Carolina marriage certificate:



This further led to the discovery that Charles Jordan is the son of **Elise Jordan**, a slave from Africa.

This was determined from the 1870 Census (New Orleans, Louisiana) for Charles--listing Elise as his mother, from Africa, with an estimated birth year of 1780.”



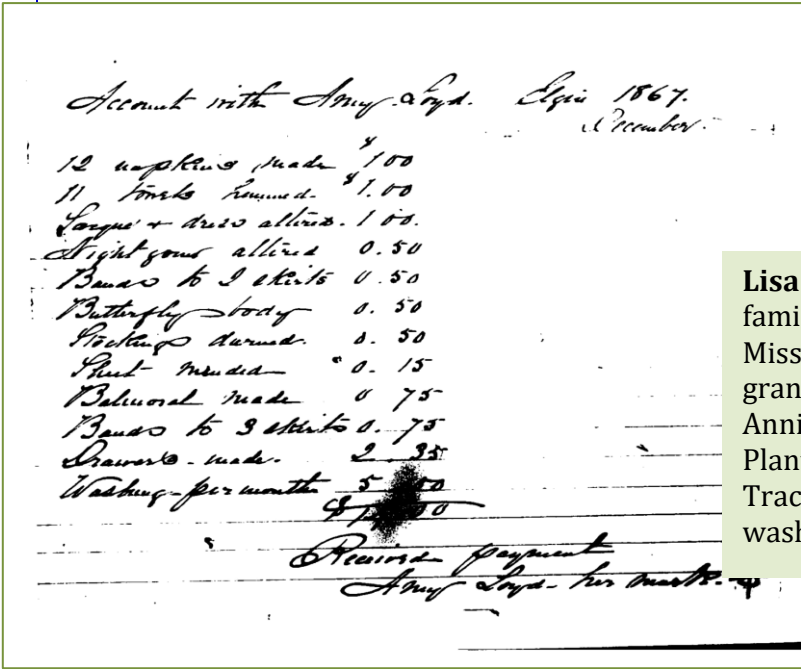
7/3	Jordan, Charles	56	M	B	Labour on Land		North Carolina	
	— Elise	90	F	B	Keeping House		Africa	1/1
	Vincut, Leroy	39	M	B	Restaurant Waiter		Florida	1/1



## Among the Microtext



**Lisa Gant and Janice Skipper** worked together since their families are from the same plantation in Natchez, Mississippi. Lisa obtained documentation of her 3rd great grandmother Annie Loyd's earnings in December 1867. Annie was a laundress for her former enslaver on the Elgin Plantation. Accounting records as part of the Natchez Trace Collection show Annie regularly received \$5.00 for washing per month, among all her other tasks.



Account with Mrs. Loyd. Elgin 1867.  
 December

12 napkins made	1.00
11 towels mended	1.00
Laundry + dress altered	1.00
Light yarns altered	0.50
Bands to 3 skirts	0.50
Butterfly body	0.50
Proteins mended	0.50
Shawl mended	0.15
Beluonal made	0.75
Bands to 3 skirts	0.75
Drawers - made	2.35
Washing - per month	5.00
	<u>9.75</u>

Received payment  
 from Mrs. Loyd for month.



**Cathy Neal** came across city directories for Selma, Alabama in the early 1900s that she hadn't seen elsewhere.



**Sandra Milton** aimed to establish the ownership of an ancestor in North Carolina. From a previously found will that included her enslaved family, she sought to find further evidence on each person. Sandra's focus at ACPL was on Isabella. A reference from the University of North Carolina mentioned the first slaveholder (Dr. James Dusenbury) may have given Isabella to Pinkney B. Chambers. In the 1870 U.S. census, Sandra saw Chambers listed just a page away from Isabella so she proceeded to locate Chambers plantation records to see if Isabella was identified within them. With so many sheets to review, Sandra copied as much as time would allow and took the material home to examine more fully.



**Reggie Barker** spent time on tax records



“I had a grand time traveling to Fort Wayne with AAGS-CLE. It was well planned and well executed. I really appreciated all the work Lisa did arranging the pick-up and drop-off for us. The staff at ACPL were kind and gracious. Librarian Sara Allen spent a considerable amount of time helping me understand how to manipulate my DNA to identify my unknown maternal grandfather. She was enormously helpful. I still have a lot of work to do, but believe I’ll get there. And it was so good to be with my genealogy friends in person, again!”

**Phyllis Yarber Hogan**



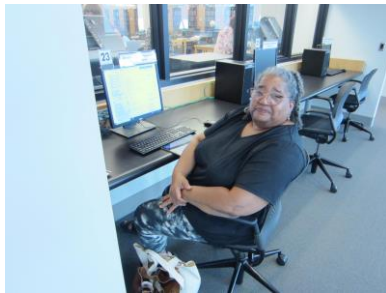
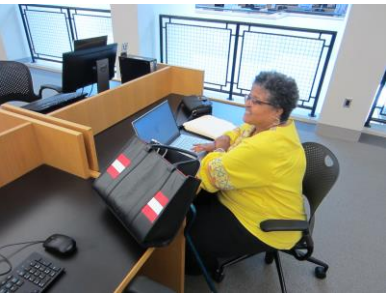
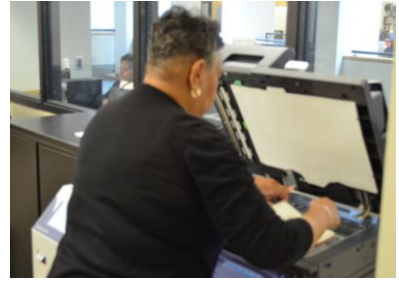
A big **“THANK YOU”**

to Debbie Abbott,  
Joe Houser Sr.,  
Lisa Gant, Joe Jordan,  
the Oberlin Gen Group  
(great goody snack bags),  
Curt Witcher, ACPL staff  
&

all others who  
helped make this  
an enjoyable and  
worthwhile trip

👍 Our gratitude for the **knowledge** gained ▪ **discoveries** made ▪ **camaraderie** fostered 👍

**MORE member discoveries to come in future AAGS newsletter editions**



*All photos courtesy of Joseph Houser Sr., Cathy Neal and Ellecia Gant*



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