

**The Afro-American Historical
and Genealogical Society**

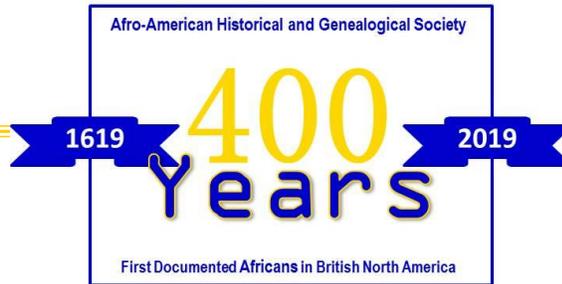
400th Commemoration

Our Legacy

VISION

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PREAMBLE

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) wishes to call to the attention of the American people the arrival of the first documented Africans in English North America on August 25th in 1619, at Point Comfort in the Virginia colony; and to record the historic contributions and achievements of Americans of African descent over a four hundred year period.

As part of this historic moment, we wish to not only recognize the contributions of all Americans of African descent, but it is historically significant to acknowledge that the “20 and Odd” Africans were the first recorded group of Africans to be sold as involuntary laborers or indentured servants in the English colonies. And, our charge is to highlight the resilience and contributions of Americans of African descent, as well as acknowledging the painful impact that slavery and other atrocities have had on our nation.

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society wishes to set forth the objectives and the aims that will motivate its programs and activities during this commemoration and to illustrate the significant contributions to the economic, academic, social, cultural and moral well-being of this nation and to the future of our country as intended by these programs and activities.

LEGACY

From the arrival of the first Africans in 1619 to the present day, each of our ancestors has a unique story of survival, perseverance and contributions. Behind every namesake, there was a man, woman or child who had an important role in the success of this great nation. They toiled, they built, they served, they contributed, and they endured great sacrifice. We are their legacy ...and their dream must never die.



VISION

The 400th Commemoration of the First Documented Africans in English North America is a time of reflection on 400 years of significant contributions made by Americans of African descent from colonial Virginia to the present day. It is also a perfect time to chart a new course for the next chapter in our history; to ensure that new generations understand our true history of Americans of African descent, our historic and ongoing accomplishments and achievements; and to instill a sense of pride and values to future generations.

The Commemoration

- To honor and celebrate 400 years of African American accomplishments.
- To kick off a national 15 month commemoration at our Annual Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2018.
- To include activities at the state, local and national levels.
- To explore and promote further scholarly research on colonial African ancestors, history and contributions.

Start Planning

On the local level, this 15-month commemoration offers AAHGS' Chapters the opportunity to celebrate the legacy of the communities in which they are located, enhance AAHGS brand, and foster a new era of growth and resonance within AAHGS' Chapter communities.

Each AAHGS' Chapter can plan special events and initiatives that will fulfill these missions. National Headquarters has started to prepare many tools that will help facilitate such local and community efforts.

- Model committees
- National Centennial Website AAHGS'
- Chapter History Portals Vision Forum
- Resource Guide
- AAHGS' Chapter History Workbook
- Media kit/PR tools
- Commemoration Sales merchandise

Getting Organized

As we approach 2019 there will be a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. Organizing a chapter Commemoration Committee can make it easier to plan and execute 400th Commemoration events at the local level. A local committee made up of chapter chairmen can help filter and deliver information from National Headquarters to local AAHGS' Chapters. An AAHGS' Chapter committee can help distribute the workload of gathering and sharing the AAHGS' Chapter's history, building connections within the community and planning events, and learning more about national, regional and local African American history. An AAHGS' Chapter's Commemoration Committee can be modeled after the national committee.

COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Members include selected volunteers with national reputations in their field of expertise. In addition to working as a group, Commission Members chair committees that focus on specific tasks that advance the general body of knowledge. Similarly, AAHGS' Chapter committees can work together to plan overall themes and ideas for commemoration, nominate and reach out to honorary committee members, and delegate specific tasks to subcommittees. Committees could include: Awards, Education, Genealogy, History, Research, and Outreach.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Members can include local celebrities, politicians and notable figures whose lives embolden the national goals and objectives of AAHGS. At the local level, the AAHGS' Chapters can reach out to local business leaders, educators, and community officials who contribute to the rich narrative of African American history and culture. Honorary Committee members can share their personal family stories as a way of illustrating the strength and support of AAHGS' national mission and purpose.

Advance the Vision

The 400th Commemoration of the First Documented Africans in English North America is not just about the honoring the memory, contributions and sacrifices of our ancestors. It is also an opportunity to enhance the branding of AAHGS, the communities we serve, the history we must protect, and the future we must plan for.

MAKE A STATEMENT

Work with AAHGS' Chapter leaders to develop a vision statement about where your AAHGS' Chapter is heading in the next century. Will you focus on youth programs? Historic markings? Classroom learning?

MAKE A ROAD MAP

Set milestones and goals to help your AAHGS' Chapter realize its vision for the future. Think about how you can tie those events into your commemorative events.

CALL FOR BACKUP

Many hands make light work. While you are out in the community sharing your legacy, invite new members to help fulfill the vision for the future. Strive for an all-time membership high in your AAHGS' Chapter during your commemorative events.

SHARE YOUR VISION

Share your vision and the successes as you embark on your journey. Let other AAHGS' Chapters know what works in your community so they might develop similar plans.

National Initiatives

The 400th Commemoration of the First Documented Africans in English North America has begun planning commemoration activities that emphasize local AAHGS' Chapters and communities. A number of national events and initiatives are also being planned. They include:

- An Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society historical video series, including a special documentary about the first documented African in English North America.
- Commemorative conference in 2018 and 2019 featuring distinguished speakers
- Develop and coordinate collateral materials to identify, compete and obtain foundation funds to support national and chapter commemoration activities.
- Develop commodity items for purchase and sale in Celebrating 400 Years of African American Heritage and Contributions
- Develop educational programs directed towards the elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels in *Celebrating 400 Years of African American Heritage and Contributions*.
- Develop forums for individuals to share their own family's 1619 story (up to and including the Revolutionary War).
- Develop library programs to engage the public and chapters on the contributions of African Americans from colonial Virginia to present day.
- Develop programing consistent with the purpose and intent of the 1619 Commemoration: Celebrating 400 Years of African American Heritage and Contributions' Commission that will assist local chapters in engaging their local communities and beyond.
- Develop programs to engage the faith based community at the local and national levels in *Celebrating 400 Years of African American Heritage and Contributions*.
- Develop relationships with hereditary societies to establish relevant centric based programs.
- Develop research and research related projects that encourage further study of *400 Years of African American Heritage and Contributions*.
- Commemorative certificates and other recognitions for local AAHGS' Chapters efforts.

400TH

Commemoration Commission

Host Committee

The Host Committee serves as national ambassadors in promoting the historic accomplishments and achievements of Americans of African descent; and by providing technical assistance and encouragement to civic, corporate, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations in planning commemoration activities; by participating in and providing technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration activities to expand understanding and appreciation of the significant contributions of Americans of African descent since their arrival at Point Comfort on August 25th in 1619 to present day by instilling a sense of pride and values to future generations.

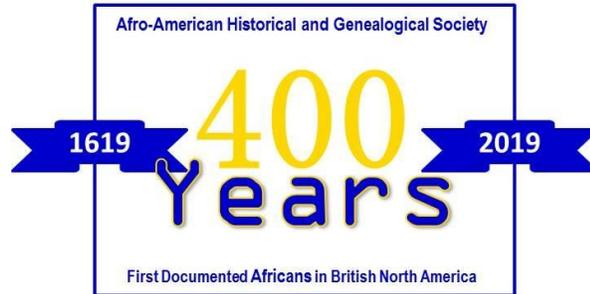
- Roland Mills, Agnes Kane Callum (Baltimore, Maryland)
- Evelyn Tenpenny, Arkansas
- Caruso Brown, Burke, Brown Steppe (Charlottesville, Virginia)
- Denise Lancaster-Young, Central California
- Kenneth O. Mitchell, Central Florida
- Ann Harrell, East Central Florida
- Lajoy Y. Mosby, Central Maryland
- Shelley Murphy, Central Virginia
- Karice Luck, Danville/ Pittsylvania
- Rosalyn Green, Delaware
- Allen Torrance, Family Quest (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- Marilyn Campbell, Greater Richmond, Virginia Chapter
- Truman Humbert, Greenville, SC Upstate
- Stephanie Thomas, Hampton Roads
- Sybil Templeman Williams, James Dent Walker
- Deborah Robinson, Jean Simpson Scott Greater New York
- Sherri Camp, Kansas
- Lori Crenshaw Bryant, Little Egypt (Illinois)
- Alison Barnes, Memphis/ Mid-South (Tennessee)
- Gene Stephenson, Metro Atlanta
- Callie Fournoy-Riser, Minnesota (Chicago, Illinois)
- Chiquita Sorrels, Montgomery County, Maryland
- Chajuan Fitzgerald, Nashville
- Lamar E. Deloatch, NC Piedmont Triad
- Wanda Coxbailey, NC Triangle
- Stella M. Pierce, New England
- Gene Armstead, New Jersey
- Joyce Higgins, Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin
- Carrie McMorris, Patricia Liddell Researchers (Chicago, Illinois)
- Jane Taylor Thomas, Prince George County, Maryland
- Marlene Bransom, Pittsburgh
- Andria Wimberly, Tampa (Florida)
- Robert Burch, Utah
- Debra Blacklock-Sloan, Willie Lee Gay H-Town (Houston, Texas)

Commemoration Committee

The Commemoration Committee was formed to memorialize the 400 years of significant contributions made by African Americans from 1619 to the present day, and to perpetuate the memory of the hundreds of thousands of Africans who persevered the United States Middle Passage. The Committee is charged with providing quality programming and resources to increase public awareness of the resilience and contributions of Americans of African descent since 1619. The Committee is also charged with encouraging civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in commemoration activities to expand understanding and appreciation of the full cultural, social, historical and economic impact of Americans of African descent since their arrival at Point Comfort on August 25th in 1619.

From time to time the Committee Chairs will include:

- Archivist Ms. Jacqueline Johnson
- Collaborations Ms. Zann Nelson
- Communications Ms. Toni Byrd
- Digital Mr. Charles Stewart
- Education Dr. Shelley Murphy
- Faith Based Dr. Paula Whatley & Dr Khadijah Matin
- Family Documentation Ms. Sheri Camp
- Genealogy Ms. Deborah Robinson & TBD
- Grand Marshal Ms. Barbara Walker
- Grants Development Dr. Nicholas Gaffney
- Greek Organizations TBD
- Hereditary Societies Ms. Gigi Best Richardson
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities Dr. Patricia Fisher
- History Dr. Marion Lane & Dr. Evelyn McDowell
- Intergovernmental Affairs TBD
- Library Programs Kathryn Knight
- Marketing TBD
- Program Planning Ms. Nathania Branch Miles
- Project 1619 Mr. Calvin Pearson
- Public Engagement Ms. Marilyn Campbell
- Publications Ms. Stephanie Powers
- Research Dr. Robert Bellinger



A CHRONOLOGY First Documented Africans in English North America

Ric Murphy,
Dr. Marion Lane, Dr. Evelyn McDowell
September 2018

- 1180 Kingdom of Kongo founded
- 1483 Portuguese navigator Diogo Cão discovers Kongo Kingdom.
- 1483 Portugal becomes world power, establishes relations with Angola
- 1485 King Njinga Nkuwu of Kongo, baptized and rules as King João. I
- 1513 King Afonso I attacks rebel Ndongo Kingdom.
- 1518 Ndongo Kingdom requests independence from Kongo.
- 1520 King Afonso I of Kongo establishes Christianity as national religion.
- 1520 Portuguese missionaries sent to Ndongo to set up independence mission, unsuccessful.
- 1526 King Afonso I writes to Portugal's King complaining about African slave trade.
- 1545 King Diogo I crowned as new King of Kongo Kingdom.
- 1550 Independent Ndongo Kingdom founded.
- 1564 Portuguese explorer Dias de Novais secured a grant allowing him to colonize Angola (Ndongo).
- 1575 Dias de Novais founded São Paulo de Loanda, capital of Angola.
- 1575 Portugal colony of Angola is founded
- 1580 Portugal and Spain were united, with the union lasting until 1640.
- 1589 Paulo Dias de Novais, supported by King Álvaro I of Kongo, sends a large army to attack Angola. Portuguese/Kongoese army defeated at the Battle of Lukala.
- 1595 The Pope declares Portuguese colony of Kongo to be an "episcopal see," the seat of the Catholic Bishop, with jurisdiction over both Kongo and Angola.
- 1599 Portugal and Ndongo sign a peace treaty and formalize relationships
- 1606 England's King James I granted Virginia Company Charter, to establish a settlement in the Chesapeake region of North America.
- 1611 John Rolfe imports tobacco seeds from Trinidad
- 1614 John Rolfe makes first shipment of Virginia West Indian tobacco grown to England

- 1618 Governor Luis Mendes de Vasconcelos wages successful war on Ndongo, against the Kimbundu-speaking people, capturing thousands
- 1619
- Early Spring: Slave ship *San Juan Bautista* leaves the port of São Paulo de Loanda and sets sail from Angola to Vera Cruz, New Spain (Mexico) with 350 captured Angolans
 - July: *San Juan Bautista* is pirated by the English ships by the *White Lion* and the *Treasurer*
 - August 25: First Africans arrive at Point Comfort in the colony of Virginia
 - August: Arrival of Africans from the *White Lion* who were originally on the *San Juan Bautista*.
 - Remaining African captives were taken to Bermuda
 - August 30: Portuguese slaver *San Juan Bautista*, arrives in Vera Cruz, New Spain, with a cargo of only 147 slaves from the original 350 Africans who left Luanda, Angola.
- 1620
- Virginia's first known census compiled, includes 892 Europeans, 4 Indians and 32 Africans (15 males and 17 females).
 - Plymouth Colony founded
- 1623 William Tucker first African child born in America
- 1625 Virginia's census compiled, includes 906 Europeans, 21 Africans. Twelve of the Africans are identified by name, suggesting they have been baptized.
- 1629 Massachusetts was the first slave-holding colony in the "New World"
- 1640 All people except Africans are to be provided with firearms and ammunition
- 1642 Virginia passes fugitive Slave Order
- 1643 Virginia sets tax rate for all tithable persons, to include all males who were 16 or over and all African women at the age of sixteen years or over to be deemed taxable
- 1645 For tax purposes, all black men and women and all other men between 16 and 60 were to be considered tithes
- 1647 Warwick County man mortgaged three people, an English boy, an Indian woman, and a black male to another person.
- 1658 All male servants imported into Virginia and all blacks of both sexes be considered tithes
- 1661 If a white servant ran away with a black person who was considered a servant for life, the white servant had to make satisfaction for his own time and that of the black servant.
- 1662 Indians and English servants were to serve the same length of time
- 1662 Virginia decided that "all children born in this country shall be held bond or free only according to the condition of the mother."
- 1667: Baptism does not alter the condition of the person as to his bondage or freedom
- 1668 African women, though permitted to enjoy their freedom, are still to be considered tithables and liable for the payment of taxes.
- 1669 A servant could be punished for resisting his/her owner or master by extending his/her term of service. If a slave resist his master . . . and by the extremity of the correction should die, that death was not to be counted as a felony.
- 1670
- Virginia law states that all non-Christian servants imported into the colony by shipping shall be slaves for their lives but what shall come by land shall serve, if boys or girls, until thirty years of age, if men or women twelve years and no longer"
 - Massachusetts law states that the status of the mother determines if their child is free or enslaved

- 1671 County courts to decide whether blacks, who had descended to an intestate person's orphan and their monetary value had been determined, should be sold at auction or kept by the guardian until the orphan came of age.
- 1672 Permissible to kill or wound any runaway who was black, racially mixed, an Indian slave, or a servant for life. The owner of that person is eligible for compensation from the government if the runaway's life was lost (4,500 lbs. of tobacco per black person and 3,000 lbs. of tobacco per Indian).
- 1680 The assembly decided that children should not be counted as tithes until they're capable of working. For Christian servants, they're counted at 14 but black children are counted as tithes at age 12
- 1682
- All servants except Turks and Moors, and blacks, racially mixed people, or Indians whose parents and native country are not Christian are to be treated as *slaves*
 - No owner or master should let any black or slave that doesn't belong to him to remain on his plantation for more than 4 hours at a time
- 1691
- County justices were authorized to send out armed men to apprehend "such negroes, mulattoes or other *slaves*" who were runaways and if they were killed, their owner would be compensated
 - If a white person were to marry a person who was black, racially mixed, or Indian, the couple had to leave Virginia within three months; fines for a free white woman producing a racially mixed child and servitude for the woman if the fine is not paid
 - If the owner of a black person sets him or her free, the newly freed person has to leave Virginia within 6 months
 - Virginia law bans interracial marriages
 - Virginia law prohibits whites from freeing blacks or mulattoes without paying to have them removed from the colony.
- 1692
- Blacks and other slaves are to be denied the right to a jury trial
 - The ownership of all horses, cattle, and hogs kept by blacks or other slaves is to be transferred to the person's owner or be forfeited to the parish
- 1699 The council and assembly disallowed the use of Africans as headrights
- 1705
- Prohibition of any black, mulatto or Indian from holding any office, whether civil, ecclesiastical, or military, or any place of public trust
 - The child of an Indian and the child, grandchild or great grandchild of a black shall be held and taken to be a mulatto
 - Reiteration that all blacks of both sexes and Indian women who are not free will be considered tithes
 - Masters of sailing vessels are not to transport servants or slaves out of the colony without a license or pass
 - Blacks and others are denied the right to testify as witnesses in court
 - African, Mulatto, and Indian slaves within Virginia are to be considered real estate under the law and can be passed through inheritance
 - All non-Christian servants that are imported should be considered slaves and no one is to purchase anything from a slave without the owner's permission.
- 1772 Lord Mansfield's decision led to the end of slavery in England. The decision indicated slavery was unsupported by Statute and unsupported by English Common Law. The Somerset Decision was left ambiguous in Virginia and other colonies.

Possible AAHGS Chapter Activities

- African American Milestones
- African American Personal Papers
- African American Web Resources
- Black History Month Celebrations
- Commemorations/Memorials
- Community Awards/ Medals
- Develop Local Genealogical and Historical Resources
- Essay and Oratory Contests
- Establishing Historic Site Restoration Efforts
- Family Reunions
- Featured Lectures and Seminars
- Genealogical Research
- Genealogy Classes
- Historical Events
- Identifying Historic Sites and Properties
- Library Special Collections
- Local Historic Sites and Properties
- Locating and Marking Historic Cemeteries and Headstones
- Milestones in African American History
- Museum Collections
- National Travel Guide for African American Historians & Genealogists
- Obituary Links Page
- Online Exhibitions/ Research
- Online Special Library Collections
- Partners Program
- Preserving Genealogical Records, Artifacts and Historic Documents
- Scholarly Journals & Publications
- Speakers Bureau
- Teacher Resource Guides
- Virtual Collection of Family Genealogies
- Youth Programs

Educating Our Communities

Our 400th Commemoration Commissioners are national scholars, historians, genealogists and subject matter experts. Use them as a valuable resource to help educate and inform your community. The following are suggested activities to help your community understand the historical importance of 2019.

- Contact state and local historical and genealogical societies
- Organize community book drive & share written works about African American history
- Participate Memorial Day Parade Activities
- Write articles / give speeches on the 400th Commemoration
- Work with school boards & teachers on how to best teach the story of 2019.
- Work with local library and help organize a summer reading program to encourage kids to read
- Work with local tour guides in your museums
- Develop local Speakers Bureau

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* The above is a representative list of suggested articles/books and does not represent the totality of articles/publications in circulation.



AAHGS

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. (AAHGS) strives to preserve African-ancestored family history, genealogy, and cultural diversity by teaching research techniques and disseminating information throughout the community. Our primary goals are to promote scholarly research, provide resources for historical and genealogical studies, create a network of persons with similar interests, and assist members in documenting their histories.

AAHGS sponsors and supports projects and programs all over the country, either on a national basis, through our local chapters or through the initiative of individual members. Our members share their knowledge and discoveries by conducting workshops and giving lectures at events for a wide variety of organizations. They have worked with private and parochial school systems, Boy Scouts of America, Black Family Reunion, George Washington University, Federal Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Defense and Justice, Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, U.S. Postal Service, National Park Service, and other historical and genealogical organizations.

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