

Generations



The Official Newsletter of the Midwest Afro-American Genealogical Interest Coalition

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April — June 2015

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OUR MISSION

The purpose of M.A.G.I.C. is to promote genealogy and family history through the presentation of structured classes, exhibition of genealogies, guest lecturers and tours of agencies that are considered sources of genealogical interest.

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Mark Your Calendar And Attend

Apr 4	Aug 1
May 2	Sep 5
June 6	Oct 3 *
June 18 **Juneteenth	Nov 7
Sesquicentennial	Dec 5 *

(See page 14)

All monthly meetings are from Noon-2 p.m. at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, 3700 Blue Pkwy, Kansas City, Mo. 64130.

*=Held at an alternative location, TBA
**=6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Midwest Genealogy Center

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Ancestor Connections and Newsletters

By Walter Ray

I began the search for my family roots 1987 after visiting Independence Shopping Center in Independence, MO. The Latter Day Saints had a genealogy chart and display set up close by the entrance. The chart was maybe ten feet long with diagrams and spaces to enter the names and histories of family members from both sides, going back for about 10 generations. I'd not thought seriously about tracing my family history until the day I came upon the Latter Day Saints display. I stopped and talked to the ladies staffing the display and learned a few things that sent me on the first leg of a journey to discover my family's past. The ladies took the time to explain to me how the chart was set up and how it worked. They shared information on how to begin the search for my roots.

A couple of things they shared always stuck with me. "Number one," she said, "we all have scoundrels in our family tree as well as those we may consider saints." She may have not used such strong words but the point she made was that some people only want to focus on the people they consider important and accomplished in their family tree while if not outright denying those of lesser repute, at least ignoring them as much as possible. In the end, they are all a part of who we are and if not for any one of them we'd not be here to tell our story.

The second thing she shared with me was the fact that skills, talents, and occupations have a way of repeating in families and it can be used as a clue. The same with names; they also have a way of repeating down through the family over the generations and can be used as clues in the search for our roots. Meeting those two ladies from the Latter Day

Saints and the short conversation we engaged in started me on my search. Within a couple of weeks I was at The National Archives and National Records Center in south Kansas City, MO, combing through U.S. Census records.

My paternal ancestors carried the surnames of Ray, Campbell, Gore and Carroll. My maternal ancestors carried the surnames of Banks, Rentie, Taylor, and Grayson. Those were the names I'd heard spoken of, there may well be others. I knew much more about the paternal side of the family than the maternal lineage. Oddly enough it was the maternal side that came quickly into view at the archives. Without going into too much detail, it was the maternal lineage I discovered in a set of folders on top of a shelf in the room housing the microfilm and the viewing machines. The outside was labeled *The Five Civilized Tribes* and inside they were separated into the Creek, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole Indians along with the Freedmen and women who had been a part of these tribes. I knew enough of the names of my Creek Freedmen and Women to recognize them in the Dawes Roll when I saw them.

With the help of the Dawes Roll I was able to get back to my Great Great Great Grandparents Aaron Rentie and Charity Grayson. Both, from what I can tell, were brought along the Trail of Tears in the mid 1830's with the Creek Nation that was being relocated from the southeast United States into what was then called Indian Territory. I thought I had the family tree pretty well set up as far as Aaron Rentie and Charity Grayson and their children were concerned. That is until I saw an article in a newsletter

put out by someone in Oklahoma. The person writing the article was a lady by the name of Geraldine Robinson. I can't remember the exact nature of the article but I do know that the names of some of the people she was referencing in the article were kin to me. As a matter of fact they were some of my ancestors from the Muskogee Oklahoma area that went back to Aaron Rentie and Charity Grayson.

My mother had seen the article and sent it to me in Minnesota. I wrote a letter to Ms Geraldine Robinson explaining who I was and why I was writing her. I needed to know what she knew about my ancestors. She wrote me back right away and I was more than a little bit surprised to learn that she too was a descendant of some of the same people I inquired about! As it turned out we are cousins, descended from the same Aaron Rentie. They may know him by Rentie McIntosh, Rentie Grayson or just plain Renty. Nevertheless, he is the one and the same person, and we all descended from him. Cousin Geraldine was of tremendous help to me in explaining certain connections associated with Grandpa Rentie that I had a little confused. She also put me in contact with another cousin in Ohio by the name of Charles Gipson. Charles has also proved invaluable to me in this family history saga.

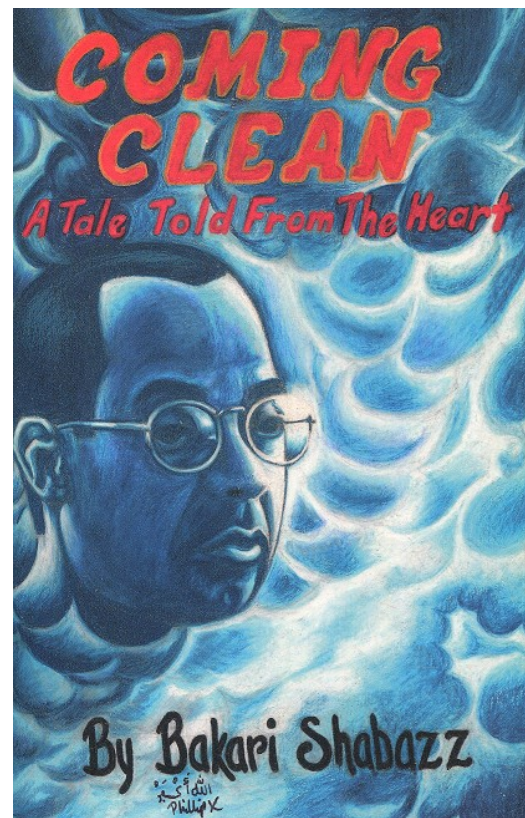
The thing I want to impress is the fact that it was through a newsletter similar to the one you are now reading that I discovered a dear cousin, and that shed light on aspects of my family that I didn't quite understand. Organizations like MAGIC and newsletters dealing with genealogical research, like *Generations*, are valuable tools in the search to uncover the past. Thank you to my cousin, Geraldine Robinson . . . and to the ladies from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints who gave me the initial motivation to begin my quest, and in the

process learn more about myself and family.

Walter Ray grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. He is author of, *The African Guide to Success in America*, published in 2013 by Bird in Paradise Publishing, "written especially for the African immigrant but can be utilized to great advantage by all who read it."

In 1999, Ray, under the pseudonym Bakari Shabazz, authored, *Coming Clean: A Tale Told from the Heart*, also published by Bird in Paradise Publishing. *Coming Clean* offers nearly 45, engaging, short, first-hand, real-life, coming of age stories of a black man in urban America (i.e., Kansas City). As an example, *Coming Clean* offers a fantastic, first-person recollection of the Kansas City race riots of 1968. This book is a call to action to record YOUR life stories.

You can order copies of both books. Send a check payable to "Walter Ray," at: P.O. Box 300914 Kansas City, MO 64130. Each book is \$10, plus \$3 shipping and handling.



CONNECT THROUGH QUERIES

Search by surname below,
or location separately on page 7

AFRICAN AMERICAN SURNAMES & LOCATIONS

- Aitch—Franklin Co., MO²⁵
Aitch—MO²⁵
Akers—Franklin Co., MO²⁵
Akers—VA²⁵
Allan—LA¹⁰
Allen—MS²⁰
Bailey—AR³
Bailey—Cherryvale, Montgomery Co., KS³⁴
Banks—OK⁶
Berry—Pine Bluff, AR¹⁴
Bethpage—TN⁴
Blair—AR¹⁸
Bonds—Hennings, Lauderdale Co., TN²⁹
Bonds—Kansas City, Jackson Co., MO²⁹
Brookings—Jackson Co., MO³
Brown—TX³
Brown—VA²²
Brown—Washington, D.C.²²
Bumpus—TX³
Bussey—LA³⁰
Bussey—OK³⁰
Butler—St. Joseph, Buchanan Co., MO³²
Byers—NC⁴⁰
Byers—SC⁴⁰
Byers—AR⁴⁰
Byers—KS⁴⁰
Byers—MO⁴⁰
Campbell—MS⁶
Carroll—Camp Co., TX⁸
Carter—AR¹⁸
Carter—Hennings, Lauderdale Co., TN²⁹
Carter—Jackson Co., MO²⁹
Chaney—Calgary, Alberta, Canada³
Chaney—Edmonton, Alberta, Canada³
Chaney—TX³
Cherry—Houston/Jefferson Co., TX²⁹
Clowers—LA²⁶
Clowers—MS²⁶
Cradock—Camp Co., TX⁸
Craig—KY³⁸
Craig—AR³⁸
Craig—TX³⁸
Crawford—MS²⁶
Daniels—AL⁵
Davis—NC⁴⁰
Davis—SC⁴⁰
Davis—AR⁴⁰
Davis—KS⁴⁰
Davis—MO⁴⁰
Dorsey—LA³⁵
Duffel—Kansas City, Wyandotte Co., KS³⁷
Duffel—Kansas City, Jackson Co., MO³⁷
Durham—MS³⁹
Durham—AR³⁹
Durham—Kansas City, Jackson Co., MO³⁹
Edwards—TX³
Ellington—Chariton Co., MO¹
Ellington—LA³⁰
Ellis—LA²⁶
Ellis—MS²⁶
Epps—MS³⁹
Epps—AR³⁹
Epps—Kansas City, Jackson Co., MO³⁹
Ferguson—AR¹⁸
Ferguson—SC¹⁸
Frazier—Calgary, Alberta, Canada³
Frazier—TX³
Gaaunt/Gantt—AL²⁴
Gaaunt/Gantt—PA²⁴
Gants—Pleasant Hill, Clay Co., MO¹⁴
Giles—Richmond, Ray Co., MO¹⁹
Glover—AL⁵
Gore—MS⁶
Graham—MS²⁷
Grant—Kansas City, Wyandotte Co., KS³⁰
Grayson—OK⁶
Gumby—Westmoreland Co., VA⁸
Hardin—NC⁴⁰
Hardin—SC⁴⁰

Hardin—AR⁴⁰
 Hardin—KS⁴⁰
 Hardin—MO⁴⁰
 Harris—MS²⁶
 Harris—LA¹⁵
 Hayes—AL⁵
 Hendricks—LA⁷
 Hendricks—TX⁷
 Hill—Lee Co., AL⁴
 Hodge—Camp Co., TX⁸
 Hooker—MS³⁹
 Hooker—AR³⁹
 Hooker—Kansas City, Jackson Co., MO³⁹
 Houston—Kansas City, Wyandotte Co., KS³²
 Houston—AR³²
 Jackson—St. Joseph, Buchanan Co., MO³¹
 Jackson—Doniphan Co., KS²
 Jackson—Franklin Co., MO²
 Jackson—Holt Co., MO²
 Jackson—Kansas City, Jackson Co., MO²
 Jackson—Kanawha Co., W/VA²
 Jackson—Spotsylvania Co., VA²
 Jackson—Westmoreland Co., VA²
 Johnson—MS⁴
 Johnson—VA²²
 Johnson—Washington, D.C.²²
 Jones—AR¹⁸
 Jones—Bunceton, Cooper Co., MO²⁸
 Jones—Calgary, Alberta, Canada³
 Jones—Edmonton, Alberta, Canada³
 Jones—MS¹⁷
 Jones—Sardis, MS¹⁸
 Jones—VA¹⁷
 Kidd—Jackson Parish, LA⁵
 Keller—KY³⁸
 Keller—AR³⁸
 Keller—TX³⁸
 Land—Houston/Jefferson Co., TX²⁹
 Leach—MO³
 Lester—AR¹⁸
 Lester—Sardis, MS¹⁸
 Levison—MS²⁴
 Levison—NE²⁴
 Lewis—AL¹¹
 Lewis—AR¹¹
 Lyles—MO³
 Madison—St. Joseph, Buchanan Co., MO³¹
 Malone—TX¹³
 Marzett/Morissette —AL⁵
 Mason—SC⁹
 Mason—Fulton/Portland, Callaway Co, MO¹⁹
 McClain—GA²⁴
 McClain—SC²⁴
 McDaniel—Blackwell, Conway Co., AR²³
 McDonald—MO³
 McIntosh—MO³³
 McLeod—AR¹⁸
 Meggs—TX³
 Mitchem—NC⁴⁰
 Mitchem—SC⁴⁰
 Mitchem—AR⁴⁰
 Mitchem—KS⁴⁰
 Mitchem—MO⁴⁰
 Moore—Calgary, Alberta, Canada³
 Moore—Edmonton, Alberta, Canada³
 Morgan—Fort Scott, Bourbon Co., KS¹⁹
 Morris—Newport, Jackson Co., AR²³
 Nash—AR²⁰
 Nash—MS²⁰
 Nelson—LA¹⁶
 Parker—TX³
 Patenande—LA²⁴
 Patterson—LA²⁴
 Phifer—AR³
 Polk—Calgary Alberta Canada³
 Polk—Edmonton Alberta Canada³
 Prior/Pryor—Franklin Co., MO²
 Prior/Pryor—Holt Co., MO²
 Prior/Pryor—Kanawha Co., W/VA²
 Ray—MS⁶
 Ray—AR⁶
 Reed—TX³
 Rentie/Renty—OK⁶
 Rienzi—MS⁴
 Ross—TX³
 Sanders—SC⁹
 Seymore—TX³
 Sharp—Holt Co., MO²
 Simpkins—AL¹¹
 Simpkins—AR¹¹
 Skinner—AR³
 Slay—KY³⁸
 Slay—AR³⁸
 Slay—TX³⁸
 Smalls—AR¹²
 Smalls—Jackson Co., MO¹²

Smith—AR¹⁸
 Smith—SC¹⁸
 Spratt—Camp Co., TX⁸
 Stevenson—MS²¹
 Stewart—AR³
 Stitt—AR³
 Taylor—OK⁶
 Taylor—Kansas City, Wyandotte Co., KS³⁷
 Thigpen—AL³⁶
 Vann—OK⁷
 Vinson—Camp Co., TX⁸
 Ward—AR¹⁸
 Washington—Blackwell, Conway Co., AR²³
 Washington—Chariton Co., MO¹
 Washington—SC²³
 Webb—AR¹⁸
 White—TN⁴
 Wiggins—LA²⁶
 Wiggins—MS²⁶
 Williams—AR¹⁸
 Williams—MS³⁹
 Williams—AR³⁹
 Williams—Kansas City, Jackson Co., MO³⁹
 Winfield—Houston/Jefferson Co., TX²⁹
 Wright—Bunceton, Cooper Co., MO²⁸
 Wright—LA¹⁰

QUERY CONTACTS

Contact information provided as submitted. We try to keep this list current. If you encounter defunct data, contact MAGIC (info@magickc.org) to see if further information about the submitter may be procured.

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 39 peacein2thishouse@yahoo.com
 40 j2davis@comcast.net
 41 **YOUR E-MAIL COULD BE HERE!**

M.A.G.I.C. members!

**Submit your genealogical queries, family
and/or local history stories.**

Become a member (see p. 12)

Deadline for Jul-Sep issue is June 1

info@magickc.org

SURNAMES, BY LOCATION

Alabama

Lee Co. Gaunt/Gantt
 Hayes
 Hill
 Daniels
 Lewis
 Marzett/Morrisette
 Simpkins
 Thigpen

Arkansas

Pine Bluff, Jefferson Co. Bailey
 Berry
 Blair
 Byers
 Carter
 Craig
 Davis
 Ferguson
 Hardin
 Houston
 Jones
 Keller
 Lester
 Blackwell, Conway Co. McDaniel
 McLeod
 Mitchem
 Newport, Jackson Co. Morris
 Nash
 Phifer
 Simpkins
 Skinner
 Slay
 Smalls
 Smith
 Stewart
 Stitt
 Ward
 Blackwell, Conway Co. Washington
 Webb
 Williams

Calgary Alberta Canada

Chaney
 Frazier
 Moore
 Jones
 Polk

Edmonton Alberta Canada

Chaney

Moore
 Jones
 Polk

Georgia

McClain

Kansas

Byers
 Davis
 Kansas City, Wyandotte Co. Grant
 Hardin
 Kansas City, Wyandotte Co. Houston
 Mitchem
 Fort Scott, Bourbon Co. Morgan

Kentucky

Craig
 Keller
 Slay

Louisiana

Allan
 Bussey
 Clowers
 Crawford
 Dorsey
 Ellington
 Glover
 Harris
 Hendricks
 Jackson Parish Kidd
 Nelson
 Patenaude
 Patterson
 Wiggins
 Wright

Mississippi

Allen
 Campbell
 Clowers
 Crawford
 Gore
 Graham
 Harris
 Johnson
 Jones
 Sardis, Panola Co. Jones
 Sardis, Panola Co. Lester
 Levison
 Nash
 Ray
 Rienzi
 Stevenson

	Wiggins		Ferguson
	<u>Missouri</u>		Hardin
Franklin Co.	Aitch		Mason
Franklin Co.	Akers		McClain
Jackson Co.	Brookings		Mitchem
St. Joseph, Buchanan Co. Butler	Byers		Sanders
	Carter		Smith
Jackson Co.	Davis		Washington
	Ellington		<u>Tennessee</u>
Chariton Co.	Gants	Hennings, Lauderdale Co	Bethpage
Clay Co.	Giles		White
Ray Co.	Hardin		<u>Texas</u>
	Jackson		Brown
St. Joseph, Buchanan Co.	Jackson		Bumpus
Franklin Co.	Jackson	Camp Co.	Carroll
Holt Co.	Jackson		Chaney
Jackson Co.	Jones	Houston/Jefferson Co.	Cherry
Bunceton, Cooper Co.	Leach	Camp Co.	Cradock
	Lyles		Craig
St. Joseph, Buchanan Co.	Madison		Edwards
Fulton, Callaway Co.	Mason		Frazier
Portland, Callaway Co.	Mason		Hendricks
	McDonald	Camp Co.	Hodge
	Mitchem		Keller
Franklin Co.	Prior/Pryor	Houston/Jefferson Co.	Land
Holt Co.	Prior/Pryor		Malone
Holt Co.	Sharp		Meggs
Jackson Co.	Smalls		Parker
Chariton Co.	Washington		Reed
Bunceton, Cooper Co.	Wright		Ross
			Seymore
	<u>Nebraska</u>		Slay
	Levison	Camp Co.	Spratt
	<u>North Carolina</u>	Camp Co.	Vinson
	Byers	Houston/Jefferson Co.	Winfield
	Davis		<u>Virginia</u>
	Hardin		Aitch
	Mitchem		Akers
	<u>Oklahoma</u>		Brown
	Banks	Westmoreland Co.	Gumby
	Bussey	Spotsylvania Co.	Jackson
	Grayson	Westmoreland Co.	Jackson
	Rentie		Johnson
	Taylor		Jones
	Vann		<u>Washington, D.C.</u>
	<u>Pennsylvania</u>		Brown
	Gaunt/Gantt		Johnson
	<u>South Carolina</u>		<u>West Virginia (previously Virginia)</u>
	Byers	Kanawha Co.	Jackson
	Davis	Kanawha Co.	Prior/Pryor

FREE AT LAST...

By Preston Washington

As a general rule most African-Americans, owing to the institution of slavery, are not identified by name in the US census until 1870. There were some free African-Americans in Missouri prior to the Emancipation Proclamation of 1865. This column will lift up selected free African-Americans in Missouri with the hope that readers might make a connection.

Edward Wilden-Welden-Weldon-Weldin

Edward, age 45, is first found in the 1850 U.S. Census, Missouri, in Adair County, District 1, with three other individuals in the household; Jane, 38; Nicey C., 11; Lucy A., 9. Census indices are found on subscription databases like Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest. This 1850 typescript listing was found on usgwararchives.net.

We learn more about Edward and his family in the 1860 US census, Missouri, Adair County, Morrow Township. Edward was born in North Carolina, Jane in Kentucky, and Nicey and Lucy in Missouri. Edward's arrival in Missouri is about 1838 based on the birth of Nicey. Edward's real estate is valued at \$4000 (\$102,250.84 in 2013 dollars according to the inflation calculator at westegg.com). He earns his livelihood as a farmer.

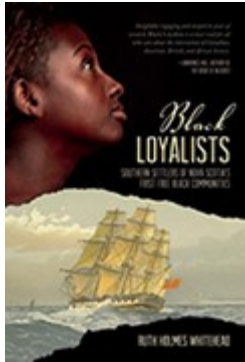
By 1870, the family is living in Nineveh Township and Nicey is no longer in the household as she marries Alexander C. Adams and resides in Nineveh Township as well. Alexander was born in Missouri about 1837. Alexander and Nicey have four children: Elizabeth, ca. 1864, Edward, ca. 1866, Joseph, ca. 1868, and Vennilla A. J., ca. 1873. Alexander is a farmer whose real estate is valued at \$600 (\$10,894.79 in 2013 dollars). His personal property is valued at \$100 (\$1815.80 in 2013 dollars). Edward's personal property is worth \$950 (\$17,250.08 in 2013 dollars). We also learn that Jane's first name is Minerva.

Coming into 1880 Edward is still residing in Adair County with his daughter, Lucy Ann, and Alexander and Nicey's four children. According to findagrave.com, Minerva Jane died on July 13, 1876, and is buried in Green Grove Cemetery, Novinger, Adair County, Missouri. Edward is also buried in Green Grove, having died on November 14, 1887.

More than 30 years later, the 1920 U.S. Census shows Lucy indexed as "Lecy Waldon," living alone, widowed, at 1403 S Bain, Kirksville, Missouri. Lucy (Lucie) Ann died on April 7, 1921, while residing at 1403 S Bain, Kirksville, occupation seamstress, and she is buried in Green Grove Cemetery. The informant of her Missouri Death Certificate #11349 was Mrs. Arthur Parks.

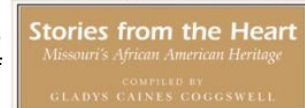
Preston Washington is the President of the Midwest Afro-American Genealogical Interest Coalition (M.A.G.I.C.). He is Public Relations Director of the Missouri State Genealogical Association, and a board member of the Association of Descendants of Nancy Ward. **If you have information on Missouri freedmen/freedwomen prior to Emancipation, contact President Washington at info@magickc.org.**

Bookrack



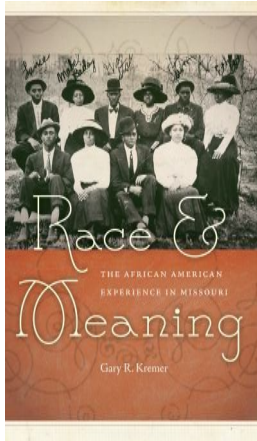
***Black Loyalists: Southern Settlers of Nova Scotia's First Free Black Communities* By Ruth Holmes Whitehead**

Ruth Holmes Whitehead's book *Black Loyalists* provides a glimpse into a turbulent period in America's past. During and after the American Revolution, many of those who stayed loyal to Britain fled to Canada including free Blacks. These individuals enjoyed more freedoms under British rule and migrated north to Nova Scotia, in particular, to re-settle and begin new lives. Whitehead's book includes images as well as an index and bibliography that will help the casual reader as well as the genealogist find useful information on this part of American and Canadian history.



***Stories from the Heart: Missouri's African American Heritage* By Gladys Gaines Coggsell**

A collection of African American family stories and traditional tales, compiled and brought to print by a master storyteller as she visited Missouri communities and participated in storytelling events over the last two decades.



***Race and Meaning : The African American Experience in Missouri* By Gary R. Kremer**

Gary Kremer has researched and written about this subject for more the 40 years. Fourteen of his best articles are available in one place. The articles are arranged chronologically to combine them into one detailed account that addresses issues such as the transition from slavery to freedom for African Americans in Missouri, all-black rural communities, and the lives of African Americans seeking new opportunities in Missouri's cities.

Upcoming Educational Programs of the Greater Kansas City Afro-American Study Group

MAGIC member, Brenda Vann, invites participation in the Greater Kansas City Afro-American Study Group. Their 2015 theme is, "100 Year of Afro- American History" with these events:

April 20, 2015
6:00 p.m.

Nathan B. Young
Second Baptist Church, KCMO

June 2, 2015
6:00 p.m.

The Watts Riots – 1965
National Archives – 400 West Pershing, KCMO



Sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation in Missouri

150 years ago this January 11, the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by Missouri Governor, Thomas C. Fletcher. This artprint was created by E. Knobel, and printed by Theodore Schrader with Theo. Plate & Co. at No. 18 Chestnut Street, St. Louis, Mo., c1865. The original measures 49.4 x 57.1 cm, and is one of two large commemorative prints held by the Library of Congress marking the ordinance issued by Missouri governor Thomas C. Fletcher, proclaiming the immediate emancipation of slaves in that state. The Missouri ordinance was issued on January 11, 1865, three weeks before the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was proposed by Congress. In the center, above the text of the proclamation, and flanked by a lion and a dog, is a bust portrait of Gov. Fletcher with the arms of the state below him. Clockwise from top right are portraits of other Missouri officials: state auditor Alonzo Thompson, treasurer William Bishop, lieutenant governor George Smith, attorney-general Robert F. Wingate, register J. E. Smith, and secretary of state Francis Rodmann. Carved female figures personifying Commerce (upper left), Industry (upper right), Navigation (lower right), and Agriculture (lower left) appear in classical costume with their respective attributes. Commerce holds a caduceus, Industry a spindle and a large cogwheel, Navigation a rudder and miniature riverboat, and Agriculture produce and a spade. The Library of Congress has digitized the document, and provided the above description. [Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-01806 (digital file from original print) LC-USZ62-91379 (b&w film copy neg.)]

MAGIC Member Application Form

Membership runs January 1 through December 31

\$20 Individual: _____ **New** _____ **Renewal**

\$30 - Corporate: _____ **New** _____ **Renewal**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Surname(s) and location(s) researching:

(ex. Jackson-Franklin Co., MO; Hill-Lee Co., AL; Brookings-Jackson Co., MO)

Phone Number: (____) _____ -- _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please make check payable to: "M.A.G.I.C."

Remit to: M.A.G.I.C., P. O. Box 300972, Kansas City, MO 64130

Selection of MAGIC's Books for Sale

For a complete list of more than 25 titles, visit magickc.org

An Indexing of Watkins Funeral Home Records: Located at 4000 Brush Creek Blvd., Kansas City, MO. Vol. I 1909-1950 (Missing 1940); Vol. 2 1951-1965; Vol. 3 1966-1980; Vol. 4 1981-2000. Price \$35.00 (Member) \$40.00 (non-member) for EACH VOLUME.

Leed's Cemetery-Afro-American Section.
Price \$25.00 (Member) \$30.00 (Non-member)

An Indexing of African American Highland Cemetery, Vol. 1
Price: \$35.00 (member) \$40.00 (nonmember)

An Index of Afro-American Blue Ridge Lawn Memorial Cemetery Vol. 1
Price \$20.00 (member) \$25.00 (nonmember)

Contrabands -Slaves and Freedman 1862-1865 - CD - Author: Annette Curtis, 9/2008.
Price \$20.00 (Member) \$25.00 (Non-member)

Contrabands-Slaves and Freedman 1862-1864 - Book. Index, M416 Contrabands, M416 Inventory.
Price \$35.00 (Member) \$40.00 (Non-member)

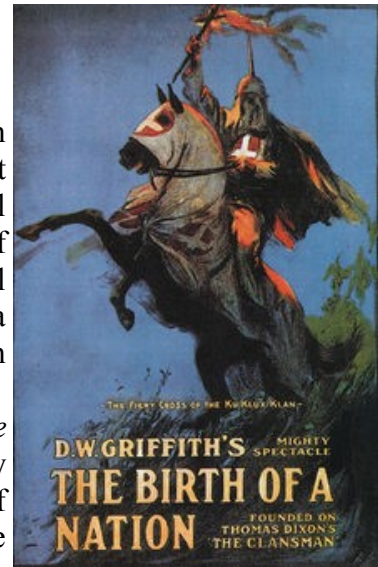
Birth of a Nation, 100 Years Later

This is the 100th anniversary of *The Birth of a Nation*, a film that still has the power to provoke debate and strong emotions just as strongly as it did when it opened in 1915. That is a powerful gift—rightly or wrongly—to stir the emotions of a nation, as if director D. W. Griffith was taking the bandage off the painful memories of the war itself and laying it bare for everyone to take a look. Many directors have that gift, but few can use it to open such raw wounds as the Civil War.

Griffith determined to make a film of Thomas Dixon's novel, *The Clansmen*, in 1914; he gathered his loyal crew and stock company of actors and created what he felt was a pretty true depiction of history, mixed in with a story of two families, one Northern, one Southern, and how they survived the war and coped with Reconstruction—through triumph and tragedy. If Griffith thought he was recreating history that everyone would agree with, imagine how shocked he was when the film sparked riots and was banned in over a dozen states.

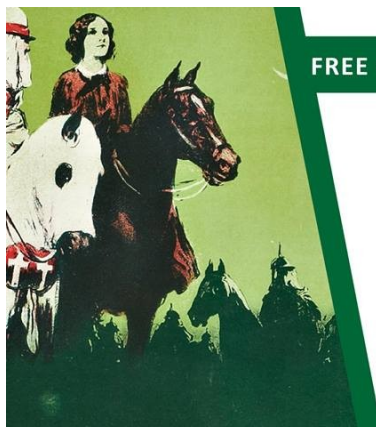
It was a shocking film back then with its depiction of the Ku Klux Klan as protectors of a defiled South during Reconstruction, but by today's standards the second half of the film, in particular, can be a painful thing to watch. But we should all watch it for we are still living with the same racial divide today. The fact that it's a technically advanced film for 1915 and that its director was at the top of his game only adds to the frustration—you are drawn in to the story while being distracted by the emotional turmoil and just wrongness of the depictions. — 193 min. Viewer discretion advised: this film shows depictions of attempted rape, of a lynching, and scenes of racial stereotyping and violence. (Courtesy kssilentfilmfest.org)

The fledgling NAACP, “learned to harness the power of publicity through its 1915 battle against D. W. Griffith's inflammatory *Birth of a Nation*, a motion picture that perpetuated demeaning stereotypes of African Americans and glorified the Ku Klux Klan.



Past events commemorating the film's centennial:

In partnership with The National World War One Museum, the Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group co-hosted Dr. Dick Lehr and Dr. Delia Gillis who discussed, "Birth of a Nation: Reigniting Civil Rights & America's Civil War" on February 19, 2015.



BIRTH OF A NATION: REIGNITING CIVIL RIGHTS & AMERICA'S CIVIL WAR

Thursday, Feb. 19 | 6 p.m. | J.C. Nichols Auditorium

In 1915, two men – one a journalist agitator, the other brilliant technical filmmaker – incited a public confrontation that roiled America, pitting black against white, Hollywood against Boston and free speech against civil rights. Author **Dick Lehr** reintroduces one of the most significant episodes in the 20th century in this lecture and discussion with moderator **Dr. Delia Gillis**, head of the Center for Africana Studies at the University of Central Missouri.

Co-sponsored by the Kansas City Black History Study Group.

And, the Kansas Silent Film Festival screened the film on February 28, and followed it with a discussion moderated by Denise Morrison, film historian, on the implications of *The Birth of a Nation*—on the film industry, on history—and answer the question why we should still be watching this movie—with historians and film professionals.



The logo features the word "JUNETEENTH" in a stylized, arched font at the top. Below it is the large number "150". A banner across the middle contains the text "1865 ★ Sesquicentennial ★ 2015". At the bottom, the phrase "A CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

2015 marks the 150th Anniversary of a number of events in American History that have overwhelming significance to African American heritage:

- January 1, 1865** The Emancipation Proclamation for slaves in Missouri
- January 31, 1865** Congress passing the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
- April 9, 1865** The end of the American Civil War
- June 19, 1865** Juneteenth—the last slaves in America were finally freed in Texas

Juneteenth National Freedom Day, aka. "Emancipation Day," "Emancipation Celebration," "Freedom Day," "Jun-Jun," and "Juneteenth," is the oldest known commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

Call upon your ancestors and join the Midwest Genealogy Center and the Midwest Afro-American Genealogical Interest Coalition (M.A.G.I.C.) in their first annual Juneteenth observation. FREE and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, June 18, 2015
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Midwest Genealogy Center
3440 S. Lee's Summit Road
Independence, MO 64055-1923

(816) 252-7228 (call early to save a seat)