

Come Learn With Us

*In every conceivable manner, the family is
link to our past, bridge to our future*
-Alex Haley

African American history tells the story of a collective people. However, with the exception of a renowned few, who mark the most significant moments in the evolution of American civil rights, history fails to speak of the individuals who actually drove the narrative. Forgotten is the African—who had a name, beliefs, and values—who was ripped from the homeland and brought to a foreign land to live as the property of another. Forgotten are the children who inspired reformers to fight for a just world. Forgotten are the men and women who did what they had to do to survive in a less than ideal situation, who celebrated the victories and mourned the setbacks of their people in the fight for freedom and equality.

Every one of our ancestors has a unique story that, however insignificant it may seem, helped to weave the tale of our greater history. Unfortunately, due to a myriad of factors, piecing together the life of black ancestors is no easy task. We have put together an all-star panel of experts to address this issue and speak on the idiosyncrasies and challenges of African American research.

*We hope to inspire you to seek
—and to tell—
your own family's story.*

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Membership may include:

- Free museum and/or library admission
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(Including this workshop!)

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To explore the many benefits of belonging to CCHS or AAMP, or to join, please visit our respective website or give us a call!

www.ChesterCoHistorical.org
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www.AAMPmuseum.org
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Stories Untold: An African American Family History Workshop

**Saturday, April 30, 2016
8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
225 N. High Street
West Chester, PA 19380**

Presented by...



CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**AFRICAN AMERICAN
MUSEUM IN PHILADELPHIA**

Photo courtesy of Ed and Faye Max Collection

Speakers

Dena Chasten-Ellis got her start in genealogy as a twelve-year old adoptee seeking her roots. Ten years later she met her birth family. By incorporating DNA into traditional research, she is now able to successfully trace her lineage back to colonial times. Ms. Chasten-Ellis is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Delaware African American Historical and Genealogical Society.

Shamele Jordon is an active genealogist, lecturer, writer and podcaster (*Genealogy on Demand*). Her biographical highlights include: researcher for the PBS series *Oprah's Roots: African American Lives I and II*, former president of the African American Genealogy Group in Philadelphia, and faculty at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research.

Dr. Craig Stutman is an associate professor of History and Policy Studies at Delaware Valley University where he specializes in the history of race and ethnicity in the United States, the Civil War and Reconstruction eras, and the intersection of social justice and social policy. In addition, Dr. Stutman is the co-chair of the Toni Morrison Society's Bench by the Road project, and he is a board member of the Germantown Mennonite Historic Trust and at Eden Cemetery in Collingdale, Delaware County.

Syl Woolford's interest in history began with the study of his own family, which he has traced back 200 years in Newark, Delaware. He recently discovered a connection between his Woolford line and Harriet Tubman's legendary Underground Railroad activities. Syl is an active researcher and lecturer and holds leadership positions in various organizations such as the Friends of the Delaware Public Archives and the Wilmington University History Advisory Committee. He has presented for the 2012 Tribute: Black History Month and received the Delaware State Education Association's Human and Civil Rights award in 2014.

Schedule

Check-in and Continental Breakfast:

Please arrive early (**doors will open at 8:15**) to get settled and enjoy a morning reception with our staff. The program will start promptly at 8:45.

8:45-9:00 Kimberly F.B. Bucklaw and Patricia Wilson Aden

Opening Remarks

9:00-9:30 Dr. Craig Stutman

African American History in Pennsylvania: A Brief Overview

This session will introduce the unique history of African Americans in Pennsylvania and surrounding areas from the 17th century to the present.

9:30-10:30 Shamele Jordon

Untold and Uncovered: Tracing African American Lineages

Families share—and embellish—stories, but the most interesting are those left for us to uncover. Sharing basic concepts and genealogical sources, we will explore techniques used to trace African American family history from the 1960's back to the 1850s.

Break 10:30-10:45

10:45-11:45 Syl Woolford

Slaves, Indentures and Apprentices: The Lewis Family Papers

One of the challenges of African American research is finding less than obvious sources. This case study, which reflects on sales and other transactions pertaining to servitude, demonstrates how important the records of wealthy white landowners can be to African American family studies.

11:45-1:00 “Working” Lunch and Brick-wall Session

Please bring your notes and a specific problem that has you stumped. Staff will host an open forum for questions and group consultations on attendees' research.

Session 4: 1:00-2:00 Dena Chasten-Ellis

Using DNA to Advance Genealogy Research

DNA testing can be an extremely useful tool in the search for one's roots. Not only can you discover your ethnic origins, but you can also make connections with genetic “cousins” with whom you can form powerful research networks. We will learn about the three different types of genetic testing available for genealogists and how to incorporate the results into your project.

2 Easy Ways to Register

**Registration must be received by
April 29.**

1. By Phone

Call CCHS with credit card payment
(610) 692-4800

2. By Mail

Return completed form and payment to:
Chester County Historical Society
225 N. High Street
West Chester, PA 19380

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Workshop registration fees

CCHS or AAMP member _____ x \$15 = _____

Non-member _____ x \$20 = _____

Total _____

**To enjoy the discounted rate, please be sure to join
CCHS or AAMP before registering for this workshop.**

I would like to pay by: (no cash)

- Check (made payable to CCHS)
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