



AAHGS Metro Atlanta Member Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2021

General Monthly Meeting

1:00 – 3:00PM

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| Monthly meeting called to order Welcome and appeal to join the chapter | Tammy Ozier, President | 1:00 – 1:05 PM |
| Introduction of Program | Jan Bryant, VP of Programs | 1:05 – 1:10 PM |
| Presentation | Nicka Sewell-Smith | 1:10 – 2:30 PM |
| Business Meeting | Tammy Ozier | 2:30 – 3:00 PM |
| Meeting Adjourned | Tammy Ozier | 2:57 PM |
| Number in Attendance | 33 | |

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Tammy Ozier opened the meeting at 1:00 pm and welcomed members and visitors.
- Tammy also reminded all attendees to join and/or to renew their membership.
- Tammy Ozier introduced the program format for today’s meeting.

MEETING PRESENTATION

Janice Bryant introduced the speaker, Nicka Sewell-Smith. Ms. Smith is a professional photographer, speaker, host, consultant, and documentarian with more than 20 years of experience as a genealogist. She has extensive experience in African ancestored genealogy, reverse genealogy, and is an expert in genealogical research in the Northeastern Louisiana area and researching enslaved communities.

Speaker: Nicka Sewell-Smith presented *Held in the Balance: The Trask 250*

The presentation covered the Trask family who ran a cotton empire in Mississippi and Louisiana valued upwards of \$4 million, all while remaining residents of Massachusetts. The focus – to discover how DNA shared by more than 350 people who descend from their formerly enslaved unearthed this discovery and how a multitude of documents detailing their lives have created a family history project documenting more than 5,400 people. A question and answer segment followed the presentation.

Ms. Smith’s presentation was recorded and can be found on the Member’s page of the AAHGS Atlanta website.



Business Meeting

Tammy Ozier presented the following:

- Announced that the AAHGS Atlanta Chapter currently has 95 members.
- Asked SIG leaders to encourage participants to join the organization.
- Appealed to the membership for project ideas and to take on new SIG ideas / groups.
- Stated that the May meeting minutes are posted on the Chapter's website and available for review. Asked if there were any revisions and/or corrections. With none stated, the minutes were approved by the membership.
- Stated that the Treasurer's report had also been distributed and asked if there were any corrections or revisions. None was stated.
- Reminded members that the Monthly Meeting and Treasurer's Reports are housed on the Members section on the AAHGS Atlanta website.
- Tammy reminded all attendees to join and/or to renew their membership. The requirements for joining were shared, including required membership with AAHGS National.

Tammy reviewed the reason why we changed our online meeting platform from Zoom to MS Teams. The main reason was due to cost. By going to Teams, we are provided with a free service. Tammy stated that the Board is concerned about member's issue with the platform and welcomes feedback. We plan to offer a Team's user meeting for members to review site navigation.

Jan Bryant reviewed the Special Interest Groups (SIGS) upcoming schedule. The name Special Interest Groups replaces the name Focus Groups. Tammy stated that this change was in-line with other genealogy groups. Tammy also stated that members can form a SIG based on a common interest with other members.

Clevlyn Anderson announced the Chapter Officer elections were coming up for the term 2022-2024. Current Officer terms end December 2021, however, each can run for another term. All positions will be open for nominations, which will take place in mid-October.

Jan announced our next speaker will be James Morgan, who's topic will be *Our Sacred Orders: African American Fraternalism and Family History*. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 23rd.

Announcements

- Dawnya Lindsey announced that Tammy was a guest speaker on her Facebook: Life Journey Genealogy Show. Google or search in Facebook to access the page and to see upcoming presentations. Jan Bryant will present on the upcoming show, scheduled for Thursday.



- Tammy reminded everyone that Emory's Symposium on Slavery was upcoming – September 29-October 1. An email with details was sent to the membership.
- Elisha Watkins asked – How can we reach out to others to see if we are searching for common names (ancestors and locations)?
 - Action Item: Tammy responded that we are working on setting up a contact list for members.

Tammy Adjourned the Members Meeting at 2:57 pm.