

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. to Be Key-note Speaker at 2008 Conference

Mark your calendars! You don't want to miss this event! Preeminent historian Henry Louis Gates, Jr. has accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker at BBAAGHS' Awards Banquet on Friday, February 15, 2008. The 2nd Annual Black Belt Genealogy Conference and Family History Fair will be held February 14-17, 2008 in Selma, AL.



Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., is the W. E. B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities and the Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. Among his numerous accomplishments, Dr. Gates wrote and produced the PBS documentary "African American Lives," (2006) the first documentary series to employ genealogy and science to provide an understanding of African American history, and

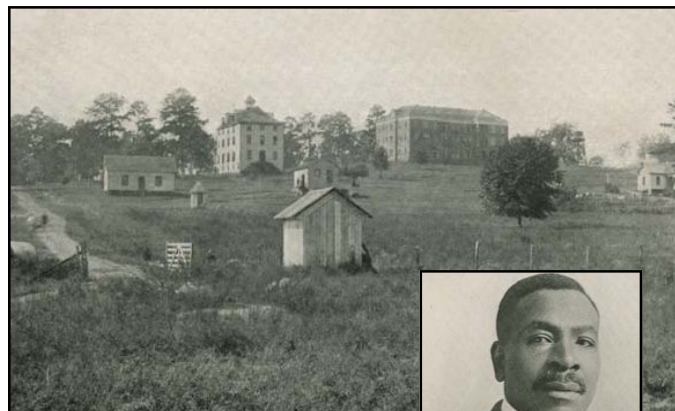
"Oprah's Roots" (2007). He also wrote and produced the documentaries "Wonders of the African World" (2000) and "America Beyond the Color Line" (2004) for the BBC and PBS, and authored the companion volumes to both series. Dr. Gates is currently at work on a sequel to "African American Lives." (scheduled to air in February 2008 — ed.)

Watch the website (www.bbaaghs.org) for additional conference details as they become available.

Donald Stone at ADAH's ArchiTreats Lecture Series in August

Author and BBAAGHS Treasurer Donald P. Stone gave a lecture on his book, *Fallen Prince*, on August 16th at ArchiTreats, the Alabama Department of Archives monthly lecture series.

Fallen Prince: William James Edwards, Black Education and the Quest for Afro American Nationality is Stone's biography of his maternal grandfather, William James Edwards, heroic rise from abject



Partial view of Snow Hill Institute c. 1918

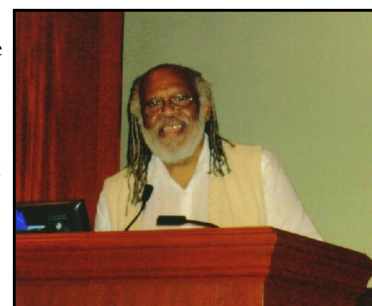


William J. Edwards founder of Snow Hill Institute.

poverty to found Snow Hill Institute in 1893 for the education of former slaves and their children. *Fallen Prince*

arcs across six generations and treats the question of American bondage, the struggle for African American education, and the story of the life and accomplishments of William James Edwards. A narrative genealogy by Edwards that traces his lineage back to the early 1700s forms the appendix.

Donald is a writer and social and political activist. He was educated at Snow Hill Institute and Morehouse College. He was a member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Black Workers' Congress, and the African Liberation Support Committee. He resides in Wilcox County on the grounds of the Snow Hill Institute and is active in wellness programs and housing efforts for the indigent as well as the preservation of the culture, history, structure and grounds of Snow Hill Institute.



Donald Stone, responding to audience questions.

Fallen Prince is available online at Amazon.com and through many outlets in Alabama including ADAH, Black Belt Treas

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ures in Camden, the Alabama Rural Heritage Foundation Shoppe in Thomaston, and Everyman Bookstore in Selma. To purchase *Fallen Prince* directly from the author, send a check or money order in the amount of \$20.00 payable to Donald P. Stone, PO Box 9, Furman, AL, 36741 or call 251-746-222 for information.

BBAAGHS Receives Black Belt Community Foundation Grant

Black Belt African American Genealogical and Historical Society was awarded a \$750.00 grant from the Black Belt Community Foundation that will allow BBAAGHS to apply for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. The award was made at a Grants Award Ceremony on Saturday, September 8, 2007 at the Central Alabama Farmers Co-op in Selma. President B.J. Smothers, Vice President Millie Lee Dulaney, Secretary Jo Ann Smith and Parliamentarian Jabrina Howard attended.

The Black Belt Community Foundation, which is beginning its fourth year of operation, was established to support community efforts in the Black Belt that will contribute to the strength, innovation, and success of all the region's people and communities. The foundation's mission is to forge a collective stream of giving from the community and other sources so we, the people of the Black Belt, can enhance our continuing efforts to lift ourselves by "taking what we have to make what we need."



Sen. Hank Sanders presents award to (L. to R.) Jo Ann Smith, Millie Lee Dulaney, B.J. Smothers, and Jabrina Howard. BBAAGHS Executive Director Felecia Jones looks on.

Grants are awarded twice yearly. Since the first round in March 2005, the Black Belt Community Foundation has awarded grants to over 200 organizations for over \$450,000. BBAAGHS was part of a group of 38 organizations from across the Black Belt receiving \$62, 500.00 in funds from the sixth round of grants from BBAAGHS.

Board Members Visit Snow Hill Institute and Slave Cemetery

Jabrina Howard and B.J. Smothers visited Snow Hill Institute on July 9th. Donald Stone, Snow Hill resident and grandson of Snow Hill's founder William J. Edwards gave them the grand tour of the grounds, buildings and the Old Slave Burial Ground (Rump Cemetery). See the BBAAGHS website for more photos.



Donald Stone examines a headstone at the slave cemetery.

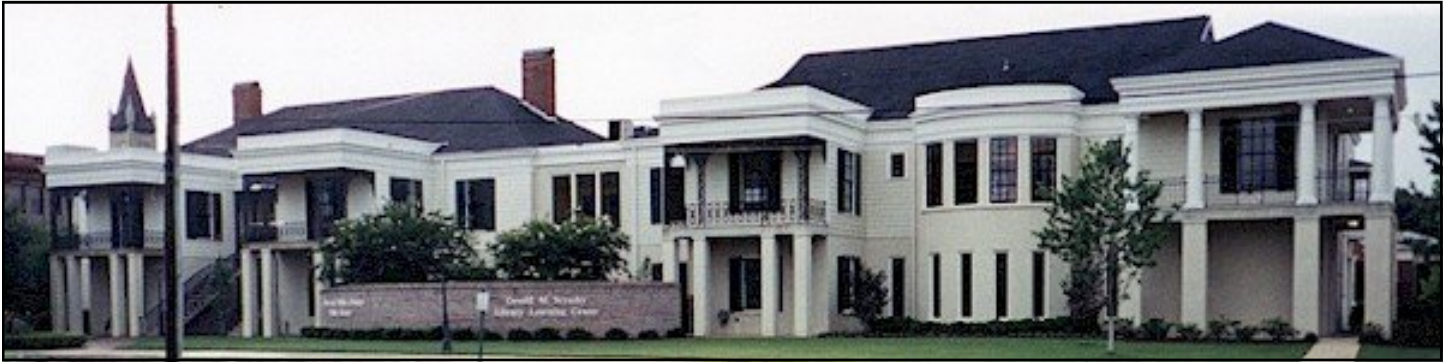
BBAAGHS Attends the FGS Conference in Fort Wayne, IN

Phyllis Armstrong and Joyce Nicoll attended the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, August 15-18, in Fort Wayne, IN. Joyce and Phyllis served triple duty representing BBAAGHS as well as the Montgomery Genealogical Society and the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance.



Phyllis Armstrong greets member Pat Perry and friend.

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Selma-Dallas County Public Library Welcomes BBAAGHS

The Library is the new meeting place for the Black Belt African American Genealogical and Historical Society
BBAAGHS meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am in the Board Room

The Library is located at 1103 Selma Ave, Selma, AL 36703

Welcome New Members

Mattie Brooks, Lansing, MI

Mary Hunter Demos, New York, NY

Lovie Warren, Calumet City, IL

Donald Stone, Snow Hill, AL

Margie Cowan, Reston, VA

Jo Ann Smith, Selma, AL

John C. Adams, Goodyear, AZ

Richard Watkins, Baltimore, MD

Ronald Curtis, Glen Burnie, MD

Dorothe Stepp, Indianapolis, IN

ARE YOU A MEMBER YET?

Join the efforts of the Black Belt African American Genealogical and Historical Society to preserve the heritage of African Americans in Alabama's Black Belt Region

INDIVIDUALS, STUDENTS, HOUSEHOLDS, ORGANIZATIONS \$35

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BBAAGHS, INC. (DO NOT SEND CASH)

For membership benefits please visit our website: www.bbaaghs.org

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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EMAIL _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS APPLICATION TO: BBAAGHS, INC.
 C/O B.J. SMOTHERS, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, PO BOX 971, SELMA, AL 36702-0971

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According to Phyllis, a highlight of the conference was Keynote Speaker Chris Haley, nephew of Alex Haley and Director of the Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland. Joyce and Phyllis enjoyed meeting with him and he promised to visit the Black Belt in the near future. Chris also reports for Roots Television. See BBAAGHS' website for more photos and the Roots Television site for opening remarks and an interview with Chris Haley

86th Member Joins DNA Project

The Black Belt DNA Project reached 86 members in August. The project started in September 2006. Anyone who can trace their ancestry to Alabama's Black Belt Region from about 1840 through 1880 is welcome to participate. To join see the project's website: www.familytreedna.com/public/BlackBeltDNA/.

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African American Heritage Book Project Gets Underway

The Black Belt African American Heritage Book Project is ready to launch according to the project committee. The Heritage Book Project will collect family stories, local histories and photographs from African Americans whose ancestors lived in the twelve-county Black Belt Region prior to WWII. The deadline for submissions is December 31st, 2007. Publication of the first volume is projected for early Spring 2008. Submission guidelines and ordering information will appear on the BBAAGHS website beginning September 15th. **Stay tuned!**



**Black Belt
African American
Genealogical &
Historical Society**

PO Box 971
Selma, AL 36702-0971
334-877-4846

The BBAAGHS Newsletter is published monthly. The deadline for each issue is the 15th day of the prior month.

Oct issue — Sep 15th

Nov issue — Oct 15th

Dec issue — Nov 15th

Send articles, shorts, announcements, book reviews, photos, letters and queries to:
editor@bbaaghs.org.

*The Adinkra symbol **Sankofa** literally means, "return and get it". **Sankofa** teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten, forgone or been stripped of, can be reclaimed, revived, preserved and perpetuated.*

**BLACK BELT AFRICAN AMERICAN
GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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MISSION

BBAAGHS is a non-profit organization currently seeking 501(c)(3) status.

BBAAGHS' mission is to discover, collect, organize and preserve the genealogy and history of African Americans in Alabama's Black Belt Region. The group meets regularly on the 3rd Saturday of the month at Selma-Dallas County Public Library, 1103 Selma Ave., Selma, AL.

Anyone interested in researching their African ancestry or preserving African American historic buildings and sites is invited to attend.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS CALENDAR

September 15, 2007	10:00 AM— 12:00 Noon	Regular Monthly Board Meeting Selma-Dallas County Public Library 1103 Selma Ave., Selma, AL 36702 Info: www.bbaaghs.org
September 21, 2007	1:00 PM— 4:00 PM	Biomedical Symposium / Post-symposium Program Tuskegee University Topic: Dr. Rick Kittles, founder of African Ancestry, will discuss DNA, Heritage and Beyond: a tool for persona and collective transformation. Info: www.healthdisparity.tuskegee/8thSymposium/symp8th.htm
October 20, 2007	10:00 AM— 12:00 Noon	Regular Monthly Board Meeting Selma-Dallas County Public Library 1103 Selma Ave., Selma, AL 36702 Info: www.bbaaghs.org
October 20, 2007	12:00 Noon— 3:00 PM	Speaker: Amos Wright, historian and moderator of the Alabama History List Topic: Black Physicians of the Black Belt Info: www.bbaaghs.org
November 17, 2007	10:00 AM— 12:00 Noon	Regular Monthly Board Meeting Selma-Dallas County Public Library 1103 Selma Ave., Selma, AL 36702 Info: www.bbaaghs.org