

AAHGS Metro Atlanta – General Meeting

DATE APR 26, 2025

TIME 1:00 PM EST

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Tamu Taylor

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: 31

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Tamu Taylor started the meeting and welcomed everyone to the April 26th meeting.

2. Meeting Etiquette and Disclaimer

- Tamu Taylor reminded participants to put themselves on mute upon entering the meeting and to raise their hand or put questions in the chat.
- The meeting was recorded, and participants were informed about the intellectual property rights and the prohibition of unauthorized recording or reproduction of the meeting content.

3. Presentation by Danielle Pritchett

- **Key Points from Danielle Pritchett's Presentation**
- **Introduction to Genealogy and Newspapers**
 1. Danielle emphasized the importance of newspapers in uncovering juicy details about family history.
 2. She shared intriguing stories from her own family history, including the case of Mona Lisa Abney, James Donald Pritchett, Margie Pritchett Martin, and her grandfather Willie James Watkins Sr.
- **Using Newspapers for Genealogical Research**
 1. Newspapers are a valuable resource for finding information that might be left out in family stories.
 2. Danielle discussed various newspaper databases and resources, including historic North Carolina newspaper collection, NEWSBANK, New York Times, chronicling America, digital NC, Google News, newspapers.com, newspaperarchive.com, genealogybank.com, and MyHeritage.com.
- **Tips for Searching Newspapers**
 1. Danielle provided tips for effectively searching newspapers, such as using wild card and Boolean search techniques, searching specific locations, spelling variations, initials, name abbreviations, and addresses.
 2. She emphasized the importance of manually browsing newspapers and using multiple newspaper databases for comprehensive research.
- **Case Studies from Danielle's Family**

1. Danielle shared several case studies from her family history, highlighting the use of newspapers and DNA in uncovering details:
 1. **Mona Lisa Abney:** Danielle's cousin who was murdered in 1978. The case remained unsolved for 27 years until DNA technology helped identify her husband as the murderer.
 2. **James Donald Pritchett:** Danielle's cousin who murdered a farmer in 1978 and later killed his estranged wife and her boyfriend in 1994.
 3. **Margie Pritchett Martin:** Danielle's great aunt who died in an elevator mishap at a tobacco factory. The circumstances of her death were investigated and revealed different versions of the story.
 4. **Willie James Watkins Sr.:** Danielle's grandfather whose true parentage was uncovered through DNA testing, revealing a connection to Isaac Banks.
- **Using DNA for Genealogical Research**
 1. Danielle discussed the importance of DNA testing in genealogy, especially for adoptees and uncovering hidden family stories.
 2. She shared her own experience of using DNA to uncover the true parentage of her grandfather, Willie James Watkins Sr.
- **Conclusion and Assistance**
 1. Danielle offered assistance to anyone interested in navigating newspapers, DNA, or other genealogical questions.
 2. She encouraged participants to reach out to her for virtual appointments and further guidance.
4. **Regular Chapter Business Meeting**
 - Tamu Taylor and Dawnya Lindsey discussed chapter updates, including membership renewal, special interest groups, and upcoming events.
 - We currently have 102 financial members.
 - New members and guests were invited to introduce themselves and share their research interests.
5. **Announcements**
 - The next chapter meeting will be on May 17th, featuring Carolyn Williams discussing land records.
 - Upcoming events include the AAHGS National New Members Webinar on April 27th and the Military Special Interest Group meeting on April 27th.
 - The chapter's 25th-year anniversary celebration is scheduled for September.
6. **Adjournment**
 - The meeting was adjourned after the business discussions and announcements.