

AAHGS Metro Atlanta – General Meeting

DATE June 28, 2025

TIME 1:00 PM EST

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Tamu Taylor

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: 50

Welcome and Introduction

Tamu Taylor welcomed members and guests to the final meeting of the AAHGS year. She thanked everyone for their participation and introduced the agenda, noting the special presentation by guest speaker Mr. Jerome Spears.

Meeting Etiquette and Disclaimer

Participants were reminded to mute upon entry, use the raise-hand feature or chat for questions, and refrain from recording or reproducing any meeting content. The session was recorded and stored in the members-only section.

Presentation by Mr. Jerome Spears: *DNA, Grandparent Genetic Recombination, and More*

Key Points from the Presentation:

- Mr. Spears shared his own genealogical journey, including stories of his enslaved ancestors and family from Southern Maryland.
- He introduced key concepts in DNA analysis: autosomal, mitochondrial, Y-DNA, and X-DNA.
- He explained visual phasing and how recombination events occur at the grandparent level.
- He used detailed chromosome mapping to illustrate DNA inheritance across siblings.
- The presentation emphasized “striving for five” by thoroughly analyzing first through third cousin matches before exploring more distant ones.
- Mr. Spears discussed the "1820 brick wall," referencing how DNA reliability decreases beyond five generations.
- He closed with a reminder that understanding recombination is vital in interpreting DNA results and in paying tribute to ancestors through research.

- A Q&A followed, with questions regarding DNA segment thresholds, challenges in endogamy, and using visual phasing to interpret ancestral inheritance.

Chapter Business Meeting

Tamu Taylor presented the business updates for the chapter:

- **Membership:** Currently at 108 financial members.
- **Special Interest Groups:** Updates shared for the Caribbean, Georgia, Sons & Daughters, Tennessee, Military, and the new **Alabama Roots Genealogy Focus Group**, coordinated by Allison Woodley.
- **Meeting Hiatus:** There will be no general meetings in July and August.
- **25th Anniversary Event:** Scheduled for September 27, 2025, at the Georgia Archives. It will be a hybrid event with lunch included. RSVP will be required.
- **Chapter Elections:** Call for nominations for all board positions including President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretaries.
- **AAHGS National Conference:** To be held October 9–11, 2025, in Charleston, SC.

Announcements

- A reminder was made to check the members-only site for meeting minutes and financial reports.
- New members and visitors introduced themselves and shared surnames and research areas of interest.

Adjournment

Tamu closed the meeting by thanking all attendees for their time and engagement throughout the year. She wished everyone a wonderful summer break and encouraged continued collaboration and research.