

**AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL
AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

FOUNDED 1977

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., (AAHGS), is a nonprofit membership organization committed to the preservation of the history, genealogy and culture of the African-ancestored populations of the local, national, and international community.

AAHGS stresses the importance of our history and genealogy by encouraging active participation in recording research and personal family histories.

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AAHGS Goes to Inaugural African American Genealogy Course

2019 SALT LAKE INSTITUTE ON GENEALOGY

LaBRENDA GARRETT-NELSON, JD, LL.M., CG, CGL

AAHGS life member and winner of the inaugural AAHGS 2018 Book Award for Genealogy, LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, JD, LL.M., CG, CGL, created and coordinated the first African American genealogical course offered by the Salt Lake Institute on Genealogy (SLIG) in 2019. SLIG is one of the premier learning experiences in the country, offering students exposure to top notch faculty as well as an opportunity to research at the Family History Library, the largest genealogical collection in the world. This January, SLIG was at the forefront of recognizing the 400th anniversary of the first recorded arrival of Africans in an English colony (at Virginia) by offering a weeklong African American course in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The faculty also included three other nationally recognized lecturers: Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, who owns the Legal Genealogist, and who gave the keynote speech at the 2018 AAHGS banquet; Deborah Abbott, PhD; and Michael Hait, CG, CGL.

FamilySearch agreed to sponsor the course but, as was revealed at the closing banquet, sponsorship proved to be unnecessary because the course had a waiting list! The amazing group of students included the current and past AAHGS vice presidents for genealogy, Thom Reed and Sherri Camp, respectively; and the president and genealogy chair of the AAHGS, Jean Sampson Scott of the Greater New York chapter, Deborah Robinson, and Diane Warmesley, respectively.

LaBrenda received the Distinguished Service Award for "her instrumental support of new programs" at the SLIG closing banquet on 18 January 2019. The AAHGS family congratulates LaBrenda and all who participated in this ground-breaking course that underscored the significance of African American genealogy.



2019 class attendees and instructors at African American genealogical course, Salt Lake Institute on Genealogy