

# Black Genealogical Group Sets Public Meet Saturday

Atlanta is about to launch what may be the first black genealogical and historical organization in the Southeast. On Saturday, July 9, at 1:30 p.m., the African-American Family History Association will hold its first public meeting at the Georgia Department of Archives and History (330 Capitol Ave., SE).

The Association will promote interest in the study of African - American genea-

logy and related history through various educational programs, research activities and publications. The association was conceived and organized by the participants of a black genealogy workshop, which was sponsored by the Georgia Department of Archives and History last May.

The meeting Saturday will feature as guest speaker James D. Walker, genealogical and local history specialist at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. An archives staff member for 27 years, Walker has developed expertise in black genealogy and military records. As a consultant to Alex Haley, he assisted with the Kinte Foundation, an early Haley effort to collect black genealogical materials. More recently, Walker appeared in "Black Genealogy: How to Begin," a series broadcast on WCTV in April. About that same time, Walker helped organize the Afro - American Genealogical and Historical Association in Washington, D. C., apparently the first of its kind in the country.

Walker's participation in the first public meeting of the African - American Family History Association is an example of the cooperation and shared interests among African - Americans as they organize to study their roots and take pride in their heritage.

The purpose of the association is to promote interest in and appreciation of African - American family history. The association is

designed to cooperate with existing agencies and association, public and private, in achievement of its objectives.

The association will study a wide range of subjects relating to the history of the African - American family, such as:

The slave family: structure and function; African - American kinship and marriage; African - American naming practices; African - American child - rearing; Differences and similarities between African and African - American families; Impact of migration, urbanization, economic conditions and education on the African - American family; The Freedman's Bureau and the African - American family;

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and African - American men in the military.

Promoting appreciation of African - American family history will require that the larger community be informed of and involved in association activities. The association will publish materials and sponsor education programs such as lectures, study groups and training sessions for the education and enjoyment of the public.

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