

AAHGS Metro Atlanta – General Meeting

DATE May 17, 2025

TIME 1:00 PM EST

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Tammy Ozier

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: 36

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Tammy Ozier started the meeting and welcomed everyone to the May 17th meeting.

2. Meeting Etiquette and Disclaimer

- Tammy Ozier 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 Carolyn Williams: Land records: a window into the lives and wealth attainment of black individuals and families

- **Key Points from Cathy Williams' Presentation**
 - Types of Land Records: Carolyn explained various types of land records, including deeds, land certificates, plots, and surveys.
 - Economic Circumstances: Land records provide insights into the economic circumstances of the parties involved, such as the pooling of money by Black individuals to purchase land as an association.
 - Relationships and Community Interactions: Land records help understand family and community relationships, including interactions with white elites and municipal authorities.
 - Gender and Legal Rights: Carolyn highlighted the different ways women were treated in land records, noting that single women were often not permitted to own property in their own name.
 - Case Studies: Carolyn presented several case studies, including the Harvey family in Pasquetank County, detailing their land acquisitions and management.
 - Generational Wealth: The creation of generational wealth through real estate investments was discussed, with examples of families using land records to build and maintain wealth across generations.
 - Full Text Search in FamilySearch: Carolyn shared her experience using the full text search feature in FamilySearch, which significantly sped up her land record research.
 - Conclusion: Carolyn emphasized the importance of preserving family stories with accuracy and integrity and encouraged attendees to continue researching and documenting their family histories.

4. Regular Chapter Business Meeting

- Tamu Taylor discussed chapter updates, including membership renewal, special interest groups, and upcoming events.
- We currently have 105 financial members.
- New members and guests were invited to introduce themselves and share their research interests.

5. Announcements

- **Next Meeting:** June 28th, featuring Jerome Spears discussing DNA and genetic recombination.
- **Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage Annual Conference:** June 6-7.
- **Georgia Archives Genealogy Day:** June 14th, with a call for volunteers.
- **25th Anniversary Celebration:** September 27th, a hybrid event at the Georgia Archives.
- **Chapter Officer Elections: Elections for 2026-2028** will begin in September.
- **AAHGS National Conference:** October 9-11 in Charleston, SC.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned after the business discussions and announcements.