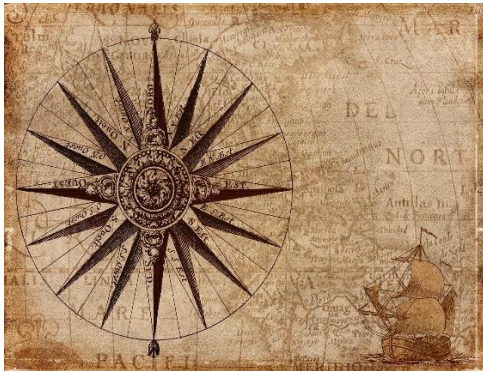


Society of the First African Families in English America: Submitting a Successful Application



Ric Murphy

HISTORIAN, SCHOLAR, EDUCATOR, LECTURER AND
AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

**APPLYING OLD GENEALOGY TECHNIQUES
TO GET MODERN DAY RESULTS**

I. Introduction

The Society of the First African Families of English America is a lineage organization that provides education and understanding of why the First African Families of English America were important, how they shaped American history, and what their Middle Passage voyage and its impact on the world means today through educational programming and publications, and the historic preservation of the artifacts and landmarks of our ancestors from the colonial period to present day. As an historical society, SOFAFEA provides rich data, research findings, products, and the tools to help in genealogical research. As one of two premier African American lineage societies, in this session we will use a variety of techniques on how to submit a successful application to the SOFAFEA, and perhaps more important how to preserve your many years of genealogical research and family history for the many generations to come. More information on the society can be found at www.sofafea.org.

II. Learning Goal

This session answers the question: *How do I present a clear and concise family genealogy documenting my colonial African ancestors, get it peer reviewed, and approved by the SOFAFEA for future generations.*

III. Learning Level

The participant(s) should have an understanding and experience in genealogical research and methods and a basic understanding of hereditary societies and their purpose.

IV. Learning Objectives

Participants will learn how hereditary and lineage societies can aide in African American genealogical research; the value of becoming a member of a hereditary society for genealogical

research and preservation of genealogical research and records; how to use “Burden of Proof: and preponderance of evidence in research and documentation; practice collaborative DNA problem solving.

V. Methodology¹

- **Classroom discussion:** participants will be given equal opportunity to enhance personal understanding by presenting ideas and opinions in a non-threatening environment.
- **Collaborating:** providing strategies for participants to learn by engaging each other in talking and in listening to each other.
- **Debriefing:** participants will share experiences with the group, offering reflection and feedback.
- **Demonstrating:** providing participants with facts through visual evidence and deductive reasoning.
- **Group Research:** participants will be divided into groups to conduct a fifteen-minute case study and/or web-based research project, and then offer ideas and suggestions on the subject researched.
- **Practice Demonstration:** Participants will complete their own *sample* genealogical application form.
- **Reflection:** Participants will be asked to share what their two major challenges have been to get to their colonial ancestors.
- **Teaching Aides:** Instructor will provide a set of diverse PowerPoint slides, interactive visuals.

VI. Pre-Assignment Activity

To maximize the learning experience, participants should go to www.sofafea.org and search for the membership page. On said page the participant should download and printout the Membership Instructions and the Membership Application in advance of the class. Although not required the participant should try to complete the application for the first three generations. In other words, fill out the information (the application) in pencil for yourself, your parents, and your grandparents (which would be the first three generations).

VII. Learning Outcomes

Participants will: (a) have a clear strategy on how to collect and sort documentation for a successful application to the Society of the First African Families of English America; (b) have familiarity on how to best use the SOFAFEA.org and other web sites to connect with potential ancestors; (c) be able to write a clear and convincing Burden of Proof argument for submission, if needed; (d) explore how to use DNA as a possible tool to identify potential preapproved ancestors; (e) how to use primary source documentation; and (f) and have completed a Sample Application to use as a guideline for submission to the Society.












¹ The learning exercises are provided in alphabetical order and not necessarily in the order of occurrence in the session.

VIII. Resources for Further Research

- Coldham, Peter Wilson, *Emigrants In Chains: A Social History of Forced Emigration to the Americas of Felons, Destitute Children Political and Religious Non-Conformists, Vagabonds, Beggars and other Undesirables, 1607-1776*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.
- Coldham, Peter Wilson, *English Adventurers and Emigrants, 1609-1660: Abstracts of Examinations in the High Court of Admiralty with Reference to Colonial America*, Clearfield Company Reprints & Reminders, Baltimore, Maryland, 1984.
- Coldham, Peter Wilson, *The Complete Book of Emigrants 1607-1660: A Comprehensive Listing Compiled from English Public Records of Those Who Took Ship to the Americas for Political, Religious, and Economic Reasons; of Those Who Were Deported for Vagrancy, Roguery, or Non-Conformity; and of Those Who Were Sold to Labour in the New Colonies, English Adventurers and Emigrants, 1609-1660: Abstracts of Examinations in the High Court of Admiralty with Reference to Colonial America*, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1987.
- Dorman, John F., ed., *Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia 1607-1624/5*. 3 vols. Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 2004-2007.
- Eltis, David; Richardson, David, *Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*, Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut, 2010.
- Hashaw, Tim, *The Birth of Black America, the First African Americans, and the Pursuit of Freedom at Jamestown*. Carroll and Graf Publishers, New York, New York, in 2007.
- Heinegg, Paul, *Free African Americans of North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina from the Colonial Period to About 1820*, Clearfield Co; printed 2005, reprinted: 2008, Fifth Edition. Two Volumes.
- Hotten, John Camden, *Original Lists of Persons of Quality, 1600-1700*, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1980.
- Kingsbury, Susan Myra (ed.), *The Records of the Virginia Company of London: The Court Book- Volume I, From the Manuscript in the Library of Congress Documents, I, 1607-1622*. United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1906. Volume I, 1607-1622.
- Kingsbury, Susan Myra (ed.), *The Records of the Virginia Company of London, Four Volumes*. United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1933. 1906-1935.
- McIlwaine, Henry Read, (ed), *Legislative Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia, 1619-1776*, The Colonial Press, Richmond, Virginia. 1918-1919
- McIlwaine, Henry Read, (ed), *Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, 1622-1632, 1670-1676*, Richmond, Virginia.
- McIlwaine, Henry Read; and Hall, W. L. (eds), *Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia*, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia, 1925.
- Murphy, Ric, *Arrival of The First Africans in Virginia*, History Press, Charleston, South Carolina, 2020.
- Nugent, Nell Marion. *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, 1623-1800*. Richmond, VA: Dietz Printing, 1934.
- Sluiter, Engel, *New Light on the "20 and Odd Negroes" Arriving in Virginia in 1619, William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd Series, Volume 54, No. 2, April 1997.
- Thornton, John, *The African Experience of the "20 and Odd Negroes" Arriving in Virginia in 1619, William and Mary Quarterly College Quarterly - Historical Magazine*, 3rd Series, Volume 55, No. 3, Williamsburg, Virginia, July 1998.

IX. Hyperlinks

The following hyperlinks² will aide in your class participation and learning participation and may be used during class time and/or in class preparation exercises. If you select and hold “CTRL” on your keyboard and simultaneously use your mouse a click the left button you should be taken to the hyperlinked page.

1.		Ancestry.com Card Catalog
2.		Daughters of the American Revolution
3.		Family Search
4.		Free African Americans of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland And Delaware
5.		Hereditary Societies
6.		Society of the First African Families of English America
7.		SOFAFEA Application Form
8.		SOFAFEA Application Instructions
9.		SOFAFEA Qualified Ancestors
10.		Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage
11.		Sons of the American Revolution

X. Instructor Evaluation

Participants will share what they learned and evaluate the overall session in meeting their learning objectives.

² Any hyperlink (URLs) used in this session herein were active and verified as of April 20, 2021.