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Chicago, IL — The Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago (AAGHSC) announced it has partnered with the Ancestry.com World Archives Project to preserve historical records. Ancestry.com, the world's largest online family history resource, created the World Archives Project to empower individuals everywhere to index, or transcribe, historical data and publish a permanent archive of the data online. Through this partnership, AAGHSC will index important community records that Ancestry.com will add to its site, making the records searchable and more easily accessible for others pursuing their family history research. On February 10, 2010, AAGHSC members began indexing *Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves*.

All indexes created through the World Archives Project will remain accessible for free on Ancestry.com. Ancestry.com will also donate a digital copy of the index and images of the original records back to AAGHSC for all projects it sponsors.

“Our organization is excited to play an active role in this unique effort,” said Ms. McGhee. “Through the World Archives Project, we have a chance to preserve records important to our community’s history and help make them more easily accessible for others researching their roots.”

Anyone with a computer can join the project. Simply visit www.ancestry.com/worldarchivesproject to get started. Alternatively, send an e-mail to aaghsc@yahoo.com to learn how to get involved with other AAGHSC members.

About AAGHSC

Founded in 1979 and incorporated in the State of Illinois in 1980, AAGHSC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with over 200 members. The purpose of AAGHSC is to “encourage and promote the study of African American genealogy and history; encourage and instruct members in genealogical research, and conduct workshops, seminars or conferences annually; locate, preserve, index and publish private and public genealogical materials, articles and projects; publish African American Genealogical information in a regular newsletter or other publications as directed by the membership; preserve and perpetuate the records of African American ancestors; assist and support libraries and organizations that promote African American genealogy and history, and conduct a program of events for adults and children that promotes genealogy.”



About Ancestry.com

With 26,000 searchable databases and titles and nearly 3 million active users, Ancestry.com is the No. 1 online source for family history information. Since its launch in 1997, Ancestry.com has been the premier resource for family history, simplifying genealogical research for millions of people by providing them with many easy-to-use tools and resources to build their own unique family trees. Ancestry.com is part of The Generations Network, Inc., a leading network of family-focused interactive properties, including www.myfamily.com, www.rootsweb.com, www.genealogy.com and Family Tree Maker. In total, The Generations Network properties receive nearly 7.5 million unique visitors worldwide (© comScore Media Metrix, July 2008). To begin easily researching your family history, visit www.ancestry.com.

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