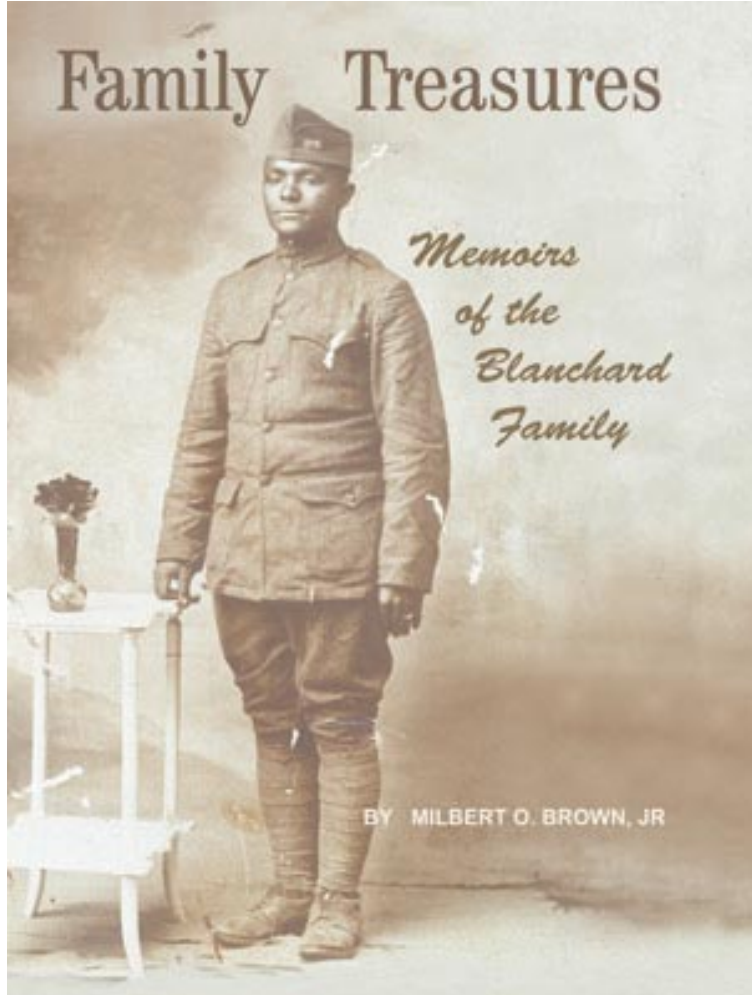




# Photographer 'treasures' family history



Congratulations to one of CAAAP's founding members, and one of its Deputy Directors, Milbert O. Brown, Jr., who has released his first book. It is titled "Family Treasures: Memoirs of the Blanchard Family." The book features over 200 pictures, several family oral history interviews, extensive slave documents and family history. The book's cover features a WWI picture of Milbert's great uncle, Ovelton Blanchard.



Milbert O. Brown, Jr.

## Next CAAAP meeting at Smart Museum

CAAAP is setting up a mini studio at the Smart Museum -5550 S. Greenwood, for our July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

We'll discuss and practice posing, lighting, metering and other topics. Two experienced portrait photographers (**James Harvey and James Shobe**) will share techniques of great portraiture.

Bring your camera (if you have a portrait lens--85 to 120--bring it) and film (some folks use film as slow as 25 while others go as high as 400).

Don't bring extra bags or containers because of the level of security concerns at the museum.

Be prepared to learn and enjoy.  
I'll see you Sunday at 2 pm.

--Jim Morris, VP



### Quarter III meetings 2003:

July 20\*; August 17; Sept. 21.  
2-4 p.m., Sundays

South Side Community Art Center\*  
3831 South Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL

*\*If meeting venue changes (advance notification of venue changes will be made via e-mail, regular mail and/or telephone)*

# Quilt making images forever intertwined with African American history

By Marian I. Jones

African American quilt making has survived for generations. It has been studied by scholars, and the quilts have been collected by museums, galleries, individuals and those interested in folk culture.

Two books, 'A Communion of the Spirits', and 'Gees Bend: The Women and their Quilts': have documented quilts and their quilters with photographs and text, and have done so with some similarities.

They both have beautiful color images showing a range of decorative and utilitarian quilts. Both books show quilters, many in portraits with biographies, and accompanying descriptions by quilters themselves. Powerful historic, black and white photographs appear in each book,

some dating back to the late 19th century. There are important differences as well.

## Book Review



Roland Freeman, a well known photodocumentarian, working for the Smithsonian Institution, created his book over a period of twenty years. His first memory

of quilts was in 1940 at age three. He describes being "snuggled" under a quilt, in the chapter "Growing Up With Quilts (1940-73). In this, and subsequent chapters, he writes about his many personal experiences with quilts.

From the mid 1970's through 1996, he documented quilts and quilters with more than 300 photographs appearing in the book with text. He traveled to 38 states researching, writing, and capturing images. African American men and women are included with their quilts and stories. Descriptions of the film (negatives/transparencies) are included with most captions.

Freeman says the "'communion'...refers to the power of quilts to create a web of connections—individual, generational, professional, physical, spiritual, cultural, and historical."

## Deadline dates for CAAAP newsletter

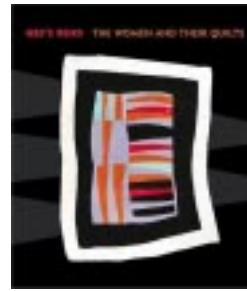
Quarter IV:  
September 22, 2003



Please submit items for newsletter to Douglas Griswold: P.O. Box 1594, Bolingbrook, IL 60440-7306 or at DougGris@msn.com. Newsletter submission sheets are available at each monthly meeting.

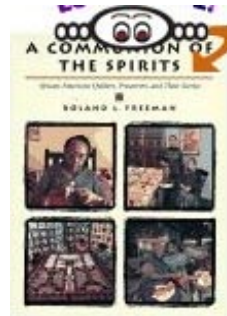
## New Journey images

The deadline for new works is now. Please note: Journey images should have been taken within the years, 2000, 2001, or 2002 and must be related to the Chicago area African American community. Direct your material to Milbert O. Brown, Jr., Director of the Journey Project. E-mail: mmbrown912@AOL.com.



**Gees Bend The Women And Their Quilts**

by William Arnett



**A Communion of the Spirits**  
by Roland Freeman

William Arnett, a collector of ancient Mediterranean, medieval European and Asian art, began collecting African art and African American vernacular art 30 years ago. He and his sons photographed and documented over 100 African American artists in the South. A ten year project later resulted in exhibitions at the 1996 Olympics and two publications.

In 1998 He came across a photo in Roland Freeman's book (above) of a quilter and her quilt in Gee's Bend, Alabama. He traveled to Gee's Bend and documented over 700 quilts and contacts with 150 quilt makers from the area. This resulted in exhibitions at The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

The Introduction to the book describes it in this way: "GEE'S BEND: THE WOMEN AND THEIR QUILTS presents a particular place and its people, who have created a body of art so rich in its content and so remarkable in its execution that it now enhances dramatically the American cultural landscape."

Although the perspectives are different in these books, they both capture a part of the beauty and depth of a rich culture. Through photography and text the authors have given a view of the art and spirit which exists in one very small and one very large community.

# Minority stock agency set to debut

Cultural Elements, a new stock book agency, which will feature images of people of color, is primed to debut soon. The agency, out of New York, has Bryant Johnson, (a CAAAP member) coordinating with photographers in the Chicago area. Anyone interested should contact Bryant at 773-538-4773 or 312-719-3862 with questions or to acquire a package which includes a contract. Bryant says this is a good opportunity to sell some of the images you have in storage. The agency will have a website where you can check and see how your images are selling, etc.

The agency plans to kick off in August 2003.

## Hyde Park Herald looking for freelancer

The Hyde Park Herald Newspaper, 52nd and Harper is looking for a freelance photographer to shoot one to two assignments per week. The assignments will be mainly features and general news.

Contact Caitlin Devitt, editor at (773) 643-8533 Ext. 140.

The Hyde Park Herald is a weekly newspaper and this job is an entry level position and is ideal for someone with a good grasp of basic composition.

*Leslie Adkins*

## Photo tips

Every home has photographs. If you are like me, you have photos of everything from family, friends, pets, vacations, and even Cousin Baby Junior's weddings (all three of them). You name it I got a picture of it. When I look at these pictures, they bring back warm memories. I'm sure you feel the same way, but to ensure your children can see those lasting memories, you have to take proper care of your photographs.

A photograph has a life span, but how you take care of it determines how long. Safe containment is the key. When you frame a photograph, never apply it next to glass. Always have space between the glass and photo, because it (the photo) has to breathe. There is moisture in the air and if it cannot circulate, the emulsion in the photo activates and it will stick to the glass, thus ruining the once in a lifetime photo of your favorite cousin kissing his second wife.

The following are a few major causes for deteriorating photographs: Humidity, Ultraviolet light, fluctuating temperatures, internal chemical, changes from residual chemicals, careless handling, insects, rodents, pollution, and natural disasters.

So please be careful in displaying and preserving your photographs. Remember they are your precious memories that cannot be replaced.

*--Michael Bracey*



**Adrian Burrows**

Congratulations are in order for CAAAP's **Adrian Burrows**, who graduated this year from Columbia College with honors. Adrian received his degree in Photography with a concentration in photojournalism.

The same goes for **Nassoma Vernon**, who also graduated from Columbia College. Nassoma is also teaching photography classes at the SouthSide Community Art Center.



The Smart Museum, 5530 S. Greenwood, Chicago, conducted a hands-on family art workshop this month. These participants got involved first-hand. This month's CAAAP meeting will also be there.

photos/Jim Morris



Rm. C-14 10th Floor  
28 East Jackson Bldg.  
Chicago IL 60604  
Tel: 312.760.9691

**Executive Board**

President

**Michael Bracey**

Vice President

**Jim Morris**

Vice President

**Louis Byrd III**

Treasurer

**James Watkins**

Secretary

**Martha Brock**

Deputy Directors

**Bob Black**

**Milbert O. Brown, Jr.**

Editor

**Douglas Griswold**

Chicago Alliance of African American Photographers  
Rm. C-14 10th Floor  
28 East Jackson Bldg  
Chicago IL 60604

This newsletter is property of the Chicago Alliance of African American Photographers (CAAAP). No parts of this newsletter can be reproduced without the written permission of CAAAP and/or its members. Copyright protected material and logo. -- 501 (3) Not-for-profit Organization.