

Slavery Past Confronted in California

Man sheds light on controversial history

(AP) — Californians like to think of their state as a free-wheeling, tolerant place, one that entered the Union back in 1850 unblemished by the stain of slavery.

But Joe Moore says there's just one problem with that sunny vision of the past — it isn't true. Though it was admitted to the Union as a "free state," slavery still existed in 1850s California, and Moore is leading a project to shed light on its contradictory history.

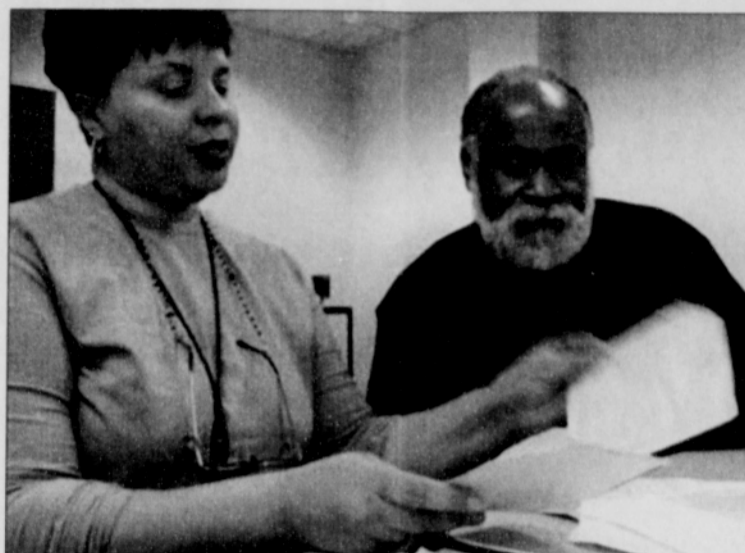
His proof is in print: in an 1852 ad announcing the public auction of a black man valued at

\$300; newspaper accounts of fugitive slaves who were arrested; and, county records certifying slaves bought their freedom from their owners.

Moore and a team of researchers have uncovered these and other, often overlooked pieces of California's past after months of digging through the archives of museums, historical societies and libraries across the state.

"We believe this is one of America's lost stories," said Guy Washington, regional coordinator for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom project, who has worked closely with Moore.

"It doesn't fit our image of California as the land of freedom and opportunity, a place where everyone can go and have



Mary Ann Cariton-Wyatt shows pages from her family Bible, dating to the late 1800s, to Joe Moore at the campus library of California State University in Sacramento.

a new start. We're not comfortable with that part of our history," he said.

Moore and researchers at

Internet. When completed, the new online archive will provide insight into the challenges blacks faced in California of the 1800s.

"The story that's being told is the diversity and richness and the determination of a small community in the 19th century," said Shirley Ann Wilson Moore, a history professor at Sacramento State who is supervising student researchers and is married to Joe Moore.

After gold was discovered near Sutter's Fort in 1848, blacks joined a stampede of others migrating West, hoping to strike it rich.

California State University, Sacramento have been converting the documents into digital files, and plan to post them on the

unless for the punishment of crimes, shall ever be tolerated in this State." A year later, under the Compromise of 1850, California was admitted to the Union as a free state.

For blacks and others, California was "a place to come and reinvent themselves," Shirley Moore said. "For African-Americans, California represented a place where, at least legally, slavery did not exist."

But many found California a far cry from the land of opportunity they'd envisioned. Officials were unwilling to challenge slaveholders who brought slaves into the state. And other laws, such as one allowing people to bring slaves into the state if they stayed only temporarily, undermined the constitution, Shirley Moore said.

Denise's Corner



BY DENISE JOHNSON
HEALTH PURSUITS
OWNER/PERSONAL TRAINER

Obesity is a risk factor for heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes,

hypertension, osteoarthritis, elevated cholesterol levels, and some cancers

Currently, 31% of United States adults, age 20-74 years are obese, defined by a body mass index (BMI) greater than 25 (see how to calculate your BMI in the Exercise Tip section). The increasing prevalence of obesity has become a major public health and medi-

The IRS Recognizes Obesity as a Disease

cal concern, and is considered an epidemic by many.

On April 2, 2002, the Internal Revenue Service acknowledged this growing health problem and recognized obesity as a disease by issuing Revenue Ruling 2002-19. This ruling allows taxpayers to deduct the cost of weight loss programs as medical expenses from their adjusted gross income (AGI) if they have been diagnosed as obese by a physician.

A diagnosis of obesity allows the cost of "the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention" to be deducted.

Exercise/weight-loss programs, nutrition counseling, and behavioral counseling are some of the services covered

by this ruling. However, weight-loss expenses for cosmetic purposes or for general good health are not covered, nor are health club membership dues or diet-related foods.

Take charge of Your Health & Finances

Begin by speaking with your physician. You should ask for a written note specifying that you must lose weight either because you are obese or you have an illness that is made worse by excess weight.

Speak to your accountant. Total medical expenses must exceed 7.5% of AGI to be deductible. Then call Health Pursuits (503) 513-9715.

Reference source: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p502.pdf>



Emanuel Scholarships for Students

Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center Foundation is offering \$1,000 scholarship grants to graduating seniors who intend to pursue careers in healthcare.

Students must reside in north and northeast Portland in the geographic boundaries of Jefferson, Roosevelt, Grant or Madison High Schools. The ap-

plicants do not have to attend these schools, but they must live in the area.

Other requirements include at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA on high school transcripts and the intention to pursue a career in an accredited medical program on a full-time basis.

Scholarship grants are renew-

able for up to four years and the winners have the option of summer employment at Emanuel Hospital after their college freshman and sophomore years.

The application deadline is March 17. Applications are available at local high schools or by calling Emanuel Community Relations at 503-413-4630.

All School Reunion

The schools have closed but reunions continue for former students and faculty of Girls Polytechnic, James Monroe and Washington-Monroe high schools. The 66th annual all-school reunion din-

ner is at 5 p.m. Monday, April 12. The dinner is at Our Lady of Sorrows School, 5239 S.E. Woodstock Blvd. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call 503-236-6557.

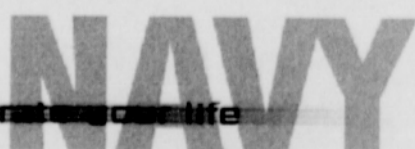
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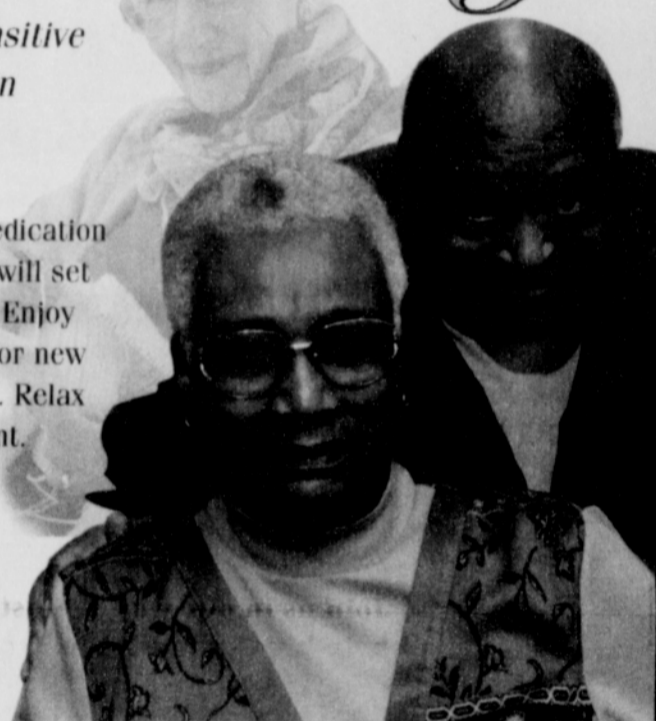
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During Black history month, we would like to Salute Col. George Middleton, Peter Freeman, Salem Poor, James LaFayette, the First Rhode Island Regiment and all the gallant men of color who fought for our freedom during the American Revolutions.

The Col. George Middleton Historical Society

The Lewis and Clark Chapter, Sons of American Revolution.

