

# News

## New Interactive Website Featuring Henry Louis Gates, Tracks Slave Voyages

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent

In his PBS series, "Finding Your Roots ..." Henry Louis Gates Jr. presents guests whose roots cover the globe - from Samoa, Nigeria, Taiwan and Sicily to Iran, Ireland, India and Cuba - and almost everywhere in between.

Each episode weaves together their stories, gleaned from cutting-edge DNA analysis and old school genealogical detective work.

And, at the center of it all and guiding every discovery is Gates, the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor at Harvard University and director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research.

Gates is also now featured on a newly updated website, slavevoyages.org, which contains databases of the Trans-Atlantic and Intra-American slave trade.

The databases are the culmination of several decades of independent and collaborative research by scholars who draw upon information in libraries and archives around the world, according to a news release.

The new slave voyages website counts as the product of three years

of development by a multi-disciplinary team of historians, librarians, curriculum specialists, cartographers, computer programmers, and web designers, in consultation with scholars of the slave trade from universities in Europe, Africa, South America, and North America.

Among the many unique features are an African names database.

The producers of the site note that during the last 60 years of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, courts around the Atlantic basins condemned over 2,000 vessels for engaging in slave trafficking and recorded the details of captives found on board those ships, including African names.

Links are provided to the ships in the Voyages Database from which the liberated Africans were rescued, as well as to the African Origins site where users can hear the names pronounced and help us identify the languages they think the names originated from or are used.

The site also takes a deep look at the slave trade within the Americas, which, after the initial disembarkation of African captives in the New World, has received

scant attention from historians, especially for the period prior to the abolition of transatlantic slave traffic.

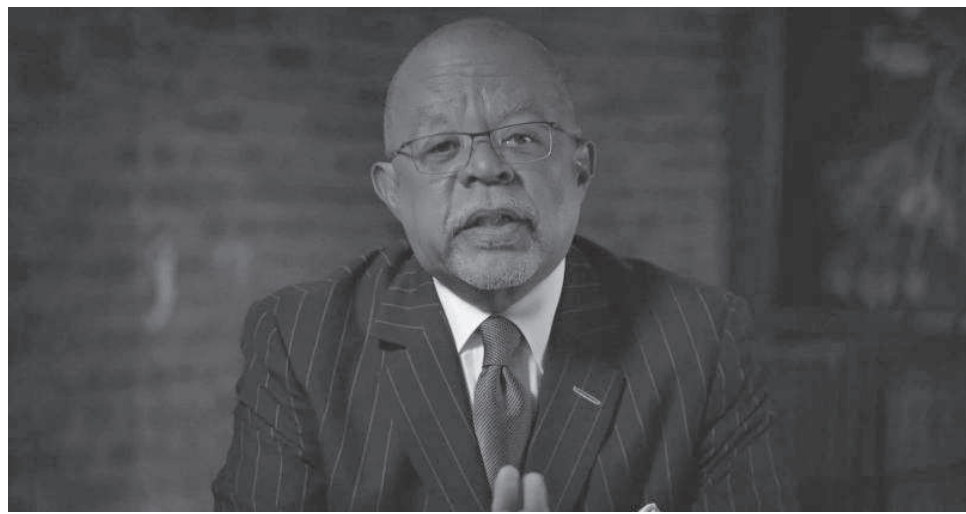
An article on the site examines similar types of intra-American trafficking as an introduction to the launching of the Intra-American Slave Trade Database, which aims to document evidence of slave voyages throughout the New World.

"The site now offers access to details of more than 36,000 slave trading voyages between Africa and the New World; 11,000 voyages from one part of the Americas to another part; and 92,000 Africans who were forced to take the voyage," Gates said.

"Users can analyze data and view video and they can contribute corrections and add information on voyages the editors don't even know about," he said. The website allows viewers to explore the dispersal of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic world.

According to the website, the digital memorial raises questions about the largest slave trades in history and offers access to the documentation available to answer them.

It recounts how Euro-



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pean colonizers turned to Africa for enslaved laborers to build the cities and extract the resources of the Americas. Also, how those colonizers forced millions of mostly unnamed Africans across the Atlantic to the Americas, and from one part of the Americas to another.

Those viewing the website can analyze these slave trades and view interactive maps, timelines, and animations to see the dispersal.

Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the work on the site was done at the Emory Center for Digital Scholarship, the

University of California at Irvine, and the University of California at Santa Cruz with the Hutchins Center of Harvard University providing support.

"I find it inspiring that our fellow Americans are so determined to explore their own ancestral heritage," Gates noted.

## Public Pays Respect to Richardson

SALEM (AP) - Top officials in Oregon heralded Secretary of State Dennis Richardson as a faithful public servant in front of hundreds of mourners who came together across party lines to remember Oregon's top elections official.

A state funeral was held for Richardson on Wednesday in the House of Representatives.

He died at age 69 late

last month following a battle with brain cancer.

Democratic Gov. Kate Brown said Richardson left a legacy of "kindness, respect and civility," an especially "important one in today's world." Flags were lowered to half-mast last week in honor of Richardson.

Richardson was given a farewell ceremony with full military honors following the funeral.

As secretary of state, Richardson held the second-highest office in the state and was the first Republican elected to statewide office in 14 years. Brown is expected to name his successor in the coming weeks.

A combat helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War, Richardson stood up for veterans, including appearing in a video on Oct. 5 promoting a business luncheon aimed at giving them more business opportunities.

He supported diversity, promoting a "Black in Oregon, 1840-1870" exhibit this year at the Oregon State Archives, an agency of his office.

"It reminds us that, although we have come a long way on the path of freedom and equality, we still have much to do if we truly are committed to 'liberty and justice for all,'" he wrote.

Richardson and his wife Cathy have seven daughters, one of them adopted. As such, he paid special interest to the state's substandard foster care system.

An audit conducted

by his office, released in February, said caseworkers were strained to the breaking point amid a drop in available foster homes for 11,000 youngsters and cited management shortcomings.

"This isn't a problem for the governor to fix, not a problem for the Legislature just to fix. It's our problem. These are our children," Richardson told journalists.

On Aug. 28, he appeared in a video on his office's Facebook page, speaking in a hoarse voice and saying he was fatigued from the strong medications he was receiving, but insisting he was doing well in fighting the illness while fighting for Oregonians as secretary of state.

"I am still on the job, and all in for Oregon," he said.

But on Oct. 16, he advised his two colleagues on the State Land Board, Brown and state Treasurer Tobias Read, that he was not well enough to attend a scheduled meeting the next day. He assigned Deputy Secretary of State Leslie Cummings to attend the meetings for the duration of his cancer treatment.

Richardson was elected to the second-highest office of the state in 2016, two years after running unsuccessfully for governor as the Republican nominee, losing to Democrat John Kitzhaber.

He earlier on was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 2002, where he served six terms for 12 years.

## Need health insurance?

CareOregon's goMobile Team can help you sign up for Oregon Health Plan (OHP).



SNAP assistance available at ALL locations

### CLACKAMAS COUNTY

**Mulino Childhood Development Coalition**  
13700 S Freeman Rd, Mulino  
Mar 19..... 9:15-11:15 a.m.

### MULTNOMAH COUNTY

**CareOregon**  
315 SW 5th Ave, Portland  
Mar 8 ..... 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Mar 13 ..... 9-11 a.m.  
Mar 20 ..... 9-11 a.m.  
Mar 27 ..... 9-11 a.m.

**Clackamas Service Center**  
8800 SE 80th Ave, Portland  
Mar 12 ..... 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Department of Human Services Alberta**  
30 N Webster St Ste A, Portland  
Mar 5 ..... 1-3 p.m.

**Department of Human Services SE**  
8129 SE Malden St, Portland  
Mar 12 ..... 1-3 p.m.

**Department of Human Services SW**  
50 SW 2nd Ave, Portland  
Mar 5 ..... 9-11 a.m.  
Mar 12 ..... 9-11 a.m.  
Mar 19 ..... 9-11 a.m.  
Mar 26 ..... 9-11 a.m.

**JOIN**  
1435 NE 81st Ave Ste 100, Portland  
Mar 14 ..... 12-2 p.m.

**North by Northeast Community Health Fair**  
714 NE Alberta St, Portland  
Mar 8 ..... 2-5 p.m.

**Parkrose Community United Church of Christ**  
12505 NE Halsey St, Portland  
Mar 18 ..... 1-4 p.m.

**Portland Rescue Mission**  
111 W Burnside, Portland  
Mar 14 ..... 8-10 a.m.  
Mar 28 ..... 8-10 a.m.

**Union Gospel Mission**  
3 NW 3rd, Portland  
Mar 26 ..... 2-4 p.m.

### WASHINGTON COUNTY

**Beaverton Library**  
12375 SW 5th St, Beaverton  
Mar 13 ..... 1-3 p.m.

For information, or to host our team, call Tamara at 503-416-1479 or Caleb at 503-416-4883.

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