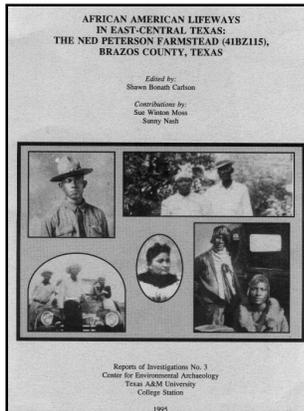


Briscoe Center and Carnegie History Center Archive Brazos Study

Austin, Texas, March 24, 2014 –

The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, a unit of the University of Texas at Austin, and the Carnegie History Center of the Bryan-College Station Library System are collecting artifacts of an archaeological study conducted at Texas A&M University.



African-American Lifeways in East-Central Texas: The Ned

Briscoe Center holdings include the 1993 State of Texas-commissioned study, conducted by the Texas A&M Center for Environmental Archaeology, which facilitated the nomination of the 19th Century Peterson farmstead in southern Brazos County to the National Register of Historic Places in Washington D.C. Carnegie holdings include Sunny Nash’s historic photographic restorations and document reproductions, published in the study’s report, ***African-American Lifeways in East-Central Texas: The Ned Peterson Farmstead***, edited by Shawn Bonath Carlson, award-winning historical archaeologist and curator of collections and exhibits for Star of the Republic Museum at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site.

Carlson said, “Sunny Nash, a syndicated columnist who focuses on African American lifeways in the Brazos Valley portrays day-to-day activities of the Peterson family during the early part of the 20th century through recollections of Ned Peterson’s descendants. The end result is a rare picture of African American culture in the Brazos Valley during the early 20th Century.” Austin-based historical consultant, Sue Winton Moss, also was a contributor to the project, using county, state and federal records to place the Petersons into agricultural context.



Ned Peterson II, son of Original Farmstead Owners, Elizabeth and Ned Sr.
Photo: Sunny Nash Photographic Restoration

From Nash’s historic photographic restorations, document reproductions, research and conversations with Peterson descendants, preserved in audio files, she chronicled their family history, from which an exhibition, ***The Peterson Legacy: An African American Experience, 1868 – Present***, housed at the Carnegie History Center in Bryan, has been created and is available for tours and lectures in schools, libraries and other venues across the state and nation.

“The Carnegie History Center is a repository for local, state and national history with Brazos Valley connections,” said Carnegie History Center director, Nan Ross. “The Peterson exhibit is based on a Brazos Valley family, one of the first African American families to own land in an area that became College Station in southern Brazos County.”

In addition to the exhibition, compilations of yet unpublished materials pertaining to the archaeological report are planned for Carnegie collections and will be made available for onsite and, eventually, online scholarly research. Materials will include bound volumes of working

papers, related documents and reports, church history, articles, audio and video files, interview transcriptions, seminar facilitation aids and group discussion guidelines.

“At the Carnegie, we want to continue to broaden our range of research tools and to provide a rigorous research environment for academic scholars as well as genealogy hobbyists,” said Larry Koeninger, director of the Bryan-College Station Library System, which includes the Carnegie History Center in Bryan, Clara B. Mounce Public Library in Bryan and Larry J. Ringer Public Library in College Station.

“The first showing of Sunny Nash’s Peterson exhibition was November 16, 2013 - January 4, 2014 at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library & Museum in College Station, Texas, as part of that city’s 75th Anniversary of incorporation,” said Anne Preston, coordinator of the Carnegie Oral History Project. “Exhibition preparation was made possible through a generous donation from Ron and Mary Bryan of College Station to Brazos Valley Speaks, a committee of the Carnegie Oral History Project.”



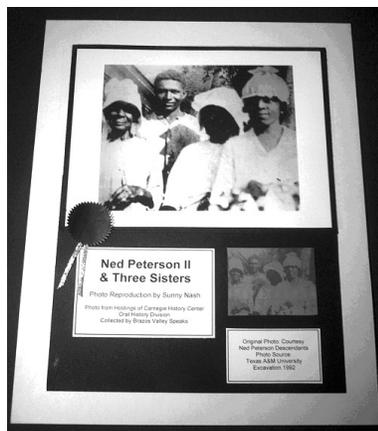
Photo: Anne Preston, Carnegie Oral History Project Coordinator

George H.W. Bush Presidential Library & Museum
The Peterson Legacy: An African American Experience, 1868 – Present

Carnegie collections will also include the November/December 2002 issue of Ancestry Magazine, in which Nash wrote a Case Study, entitled *From Excavation to Oral History*. “Uncovering this story of the Peterson family was possible only after Shawn Carlson and the archaeological team at Texas A&M University uncovered the remnants of the family’s farmstead,” Nash said. “I completed the Peterson family story with oral history interviews, historic pictures from family albums and examination of family documents. I was also able to obtain a valuable document, the history of the Greater Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, organized by Ned Peterson’s descendants. This document will also be in the Carnegie collection.”



Ancestry Magazine
November/December 2002



Ned Peterson II and Sisters, 1916
Photo: Sunny Nash Photographic Restoration
From: The Peterson Legacy:
An African American Experience
1868 – Present

“Through Nash’s interviews of seven informants, we learned that Ned Peterson was a strong patriarch respected by his family,” Carlson said. “Numerous family photographs and documents were reproduced by Nash and helped to provide a more intimate view of the family.”

Shawn Bonath Carlton, Sue Winton Moss and Sunny Nash provided scholarly research and images that are now within the Oral History archives of the Carnegie History Center and also among the contents of the Council of Texas Archeologists Archive of Texas Archeology at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, where scholars, students and the public are welcome to conduct research. The Briscoe Center also facilitates, sponsors and supports teaching, research, and public education in Texas and the United States; and acquires, preserves and archives artifacts and rare book collections, and sponsors exhibitions, conferences, video documentaries, oral histories, grant-funded research and publications.

The Peterson Legacy: An African American Experience, 1868 – Present exhibition is available for touring. Lectures and presentations on the Peterson family can also be arranged. Contact Anne Preston, Oral History Coordinator at the Carnegie History Center in Bryan for procedures.

“Nash’s historic photographic restorations and document reproductions from the Peterson project are currently available at the Carnegie for scholarly research and review,” said Preston. “We also have a wide range of other research materials among our collections.”