

BIPOC AMERICAN PIONEERS TO BE UNCOVERED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RELEASE OF NEW AMERICAN HISTORY BOOK

San Diegan Shellie Baxter to Publish History Books Featuring the Previously Untold Legacy and Accomplishments of BIPOC Americans

SAN DIEGO- San Diego resident Shellie Baxter established a non-profit, Our Genetic Legacy, in 2018 in response to her frustration with the lack of recognition and the disenfranchisement of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Americans in American history. "BIPOC legacies do not begin or end in enslavement," Baxter says. Correcting the systemic erasure of BIPOC stories and memorializing their lives for future generations to learn about is at the forefront of Baxter's new program entitled **History Makers Workshop: Tell Your American Legacy Story**. The goal of the program is to annually publish new American history books of 25 chapters that represent the contributions of BIPOC Americans in the founding and building of America.

History Makers Workshop (HMW) inspires people to uncover and document stories that account for historical events from the perspective of overlooked people rather than often highlighted historical figures. This program brings to light previously undocumented BIPOC legacies in new history books with tangible evidence of their past contributions to and present impact on the founding and building of America. Each chapter will be written by a different individual, therefore making up 25 unique BIPOC stories that have never been told before.

In order to be considered for the workshop, Baxter and her team will be accepting an online application that includes a waitlist for those interested in learning more about their ancestry and contributing to the book. Those who are selected will work with a Legacy Tracing™ Team consisting of professional genealogists and writing consultants to find, trace and write about their ancestral history and each chapter will include all documentation based on their findings. Participants will actively engage with a genealogist to discover their genetic ancestry, learn how to supplement publicly available information by uncovering and publicizing privately held primary source documentation, and work with the writing consultant to creatively tell the story of their ancestor(s) in their voice using evidence in context of American history.

The outcome of the workshop will be **a new BIPOC American history book publicizing the legacy and accomplishments of 25 previously undocumented BIPOC American pioneers**. "My passion comes from seeing the joy of knowing one's ancestral legacy, it drives me. It is time for members of the BIPOC community to stop waiting for someone else to accurately tell our story and do it ourselves," says Baxter. Ms. Baxter's own family legacy story- the struggles her ancestors overcame for her to even exist- ignites her passion to help others find their legacy. She hopes that the book release will cause an increased public interest in learning more about BIPOC contributions to American history as well as tell the stories of previously unknown American pioneers and ultimately correct the narrative of America to include BIPOC Americans as contributors to the building of America and not as tools or property,

Our Genetic Legacy will accept applications from Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Americans to include their American Legacy Story in a new American history book. No previous genealogy or writing experience is required. This program is focused on telling the legacies of everyday Americans. All participants must agree to take an AncestryDNA test and actively work with the Legacy Tracing™ Team. Participants should expect to spend approximately 10 - 20 hours working with the Legacy Tracing™ Team over the course of approximately 2 months. History books will be presented each year beginning February 2022. The online application can be found here:

<https://form.jotform.com/210608635965159>

Contact Shellie Baxter at shellie@ourgeneticlegacy.org