Genealogy continued from page A1

ment Kendall ... the negro slaves Jacob, Wincy, their children Martin, George, Sarah. together with their future increase... I give the trustees...discretionary power over

humane treatment of said slaves. Two other children were given to Kendall's son in Arkansas. Kilgore still searches for them.

said negroes to do as they think

best, requiring them in all cases to

take bond and security for the

"It's like a connection broken, an arm taken off my body, something missing," said Kilgore, speaking of her genealogical research. "Like something very personal torn away from me.

Kilgore's interest in her family history started with a family reunion, when she realized for the first time that her great-greatgrandparents had five children, not

"I almost cried when I found jout," she said. "A part of my family had been sold like cattle."

She made up her mind to track them down, and went to the Forsyth County public library for help. She quickly discovered that the North Carolina Room, located on the third floor in the main branch, is the place to begin look-·ing for ancestors. A paper posted at the entrance to the room serves notice that members of the Forsyth Genealogical Society are available to help researchers on Thursdays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The staff of the N.C. Room have compiled a 20page pamphlet with specific and simple instructions on conducting genealogical research.

Ann Gray, a reference librarian in the N.C. Room, is also a big help to individuals who come in looking for their ancestors. She has deeprooted feelings about the importance of genealogy.

"Understanding your family background gives you a deep appreciation for the goodness and beauty in life." she says. "I don't think our community thinks in terms of preserving our cultural past. Blacks have contributed so much to the community, but nobody remembers them for those things. Taking care of someone's mother, that's undergirding society. We're throwing so much away that can not be seen or measured."

Grey says one place to start is with census records, which in North Carolina are available beginning in 1784. The first federal census was taken in 1790, but they were taken primarily for tax purposes, and African-Americans are scant among those listed. Both censuses are indexed in book form in the N.C. Room. The city directory identifies people by race, and can be more helpful for African-Ameri-

"Knowing your family history makes you look at history and appreciate the good and the best in all cultures," says Gray. "We have all worked together to make this world better."



Rita Kilgore found her great-great grandparents listed as property in a 1855 will and testament.

Kilgore still searches for the missing pieces to her past. Earlier this year, she located a woman in Arkansas who may be a descendant of her great-great-grandfather's children who were separated from him over 100 years ago. Genealogy work takes time: locating names

that may or may not have belonged to relatives, sending off for records, and waiting for information to arrive in the mail. But as parts of black Americans' lives are pieced together, perhaps a long-awaited cultural rejuvenation can take place on a larger scale.

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Cherry from A1

both physically and mentally, but growing up daddy wasn't there for since the incident I have not been able to sleep and I have lost weight. No community agency has offered victim's assistance to my family." Cherry said that it has been extremely stressful, but because of her faith she has been able to be

keeping my mind together I added. couldn't make it,"

she said. "Christ is keeping me together."

Cherry said that her son was abused as a child and suffered because his father neglected him. She also said that since the mother of his children.

a two-year-old and one-yearold boy, took them to Fayetteville, he has been extremely distant and cold. Cherry said that she moved the children in 1990. "I began to see a great difference in him when she took those children. He would say things like, 'I did not get a chance to see my baby take his first step or say his first words, when we were

us and I wanted to be there for them,"'she said.

Cherry said that she saw her son the Wednesday before his arrest and he did not seem to be himself. "My son has been brought up to be well-mannered. He's an easy going person and was brought up in "If it had not been for God church to do the right things," she

> Cherry is a suspect in a similar attack in Fayetteville in 1990. where Phoebe H. Cooper was kidnapped, raped, shot and left for dead. He was also convicted in 1985 of armed robbery and sentenced to 14 years in prison.

> Ms. Cherry worries that it wil. be impossible for him to get a fair trial in Winston-Salem.

> "If my son is proven guilty for the crimes he is accused of committing, then I expect hem to be punished, but I love him just as much as they (the Gallahers) love their daughter and I want him to get a fair trial," she said.



Maya Angelou

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