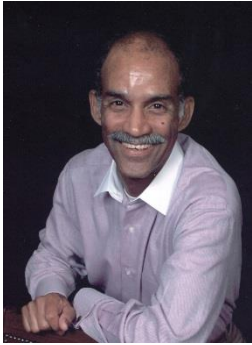


# Conference Keynoter:

Keynote: “*Why the Basics are Important*”

## Tony Burroughs, FUGA



Tony Burroughs is the founder and CEO of The Center for Black Genealogy. He is an internationally known genealogist who taught genealogy at Chicago State University for fifteen years. He researched Olympic Gold Medal sprint champion Michael Johnson's family history and consulted on the Reverend Al Sharpton-Strom Thurmond genealogy and the Oprah Winfrey genealogy. He consulted for television programs: *Who Do You Think You Are?*, *African American Lives*, *The Real Family of Jesus*, *The History Detectives* and Ancestry.com.

Burroughs has appeared as a guest genealogy expert in several television documentaries including:

*Blood and Glory: The Civil War in Color* (History Channel 2015)

*Michael Johnson: Survival of the Fastest* (Channel 4 London, 2012)

*Roots Remembered* (BBC, 2007)

*Oprah's Roots* (PBS, 2007-featured expert)

*The Real Family of Jesus* (Discovery Channel, 2005 Easter Special)

*African American Lives* with Henry Louis Gates (PBS, 2006)

*Ancestors 2* (PBS, 2000-appeared in six episodes)

*Ancestors* (PBS, 1997 - featured genealogy expert)

Burroughs' book, *Black Roots: A Beginners Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree* was number one on *Essence Magazine's Best Seller List*. His chapter, "African American Genealogy" is in the *Encyclopedia of African American History*. His chapter, "African American Genealogy" appears in *The Source*, revised edition and he was one of three co-authors of the *African American Genealogical Sourcebook*.

Burroughs received the *Distinguished Service Award* from the National Genealogical Society, *Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association*, the *Lowell Volkel Medal* from the Illinois Genealogical Society and *Who's Who in America*. He was selected as one of 5,000 African Americans to be included in a video oral history archive by The History Makers.

His research on the index to the Census led to discovering the original Soundex instructions and correcting a forty year omission from National Archives' instructions. His research on the Underground Railroad in 2001 enabled the Kimzey Crossing home in Tamaroa, Illinois to be recognized by the National Park Service's *Network to Freedom*. His testimony before Congress in 2000 helped preserve 135 year old records from the Freedmen's Bureau.

Burroughs is on the Board of Directors of the Illinois State Genealogical Society and Kwame Nkrumah Academy. Former board positions include: the Association of Professional Genealogists, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Federation of Genealogical Societies and Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago (President).

He has traced his family tree eight generations, and qualified for twelve lineage society certificates.