



**Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc.  
Prince George's County Maryland Chapter  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **“Prince George’s County, Maryland Chapter and Members Received AAHGS National Awards”**

**Fort Washington, MD – October 21, 2013** – Recently, the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS), Inc. bestowed the Chapter of the Year Award to the AAHGS-Prince George’s County, Maryland Chapter (AAHGS-PGCM) at the Society’s 34<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference, in Nashville, TN. The award is presented to an AAHGS chapter who has made outstanding contributions to the organization’s mission to preserve African American history and genealogy through sponsorship of quality programs, activities, and services over the past year. The Chapter earned this special recognition in a field of 29 chapters located in 15 states across the nation.

AAHGS-PGCM had two major programs, the Juneteenth workshop and the Maryland Legacy Day Seminar, as well as hosted a public meeting for a preservation commission appointed by the Governor of Maryland. The Prince George’s County Maryland Chapter partnered with the Prince George’s County Historical Society, Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, the Family History Center-Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the Prince George’s County African American Museum and Cultural Center in North Brentwood to provide those educational services to the community. AAHGS-PGCM, along with other Chapters in Maryland and the District of Columbia, jointly sponsored a “Meet the Author” event with author Rachel Swarns at the Prince George’s County Community College. In addition to quality programs and speakers at each of their bi-monthly meetings, AAHGS-PGCM conducts genealogy workshops, classes for beginning to advanced genealogists, and tours of sites of historical and genealogical significance.



“On behalf of the Chapter members, it is an honor to receive this prestigious award. The members have worked diligently to accomplish the goals and objectives of the organization,” said President Jane Taylor Thomas of Fort Washington who is a native of Saint Mary’s County, MD. “Over the 18 years of its existence, the Chapter is proud of the services it has provided to the Prince George’s County Community. It has accomplished many of its goals and objectives while partnering with other historical, genealogical, and preservation groups. The County is much more aware of the significant contributions of

African Americans than it was 20 years ago when we began advocating for their inclusion in all things historical.”

### Other Awardees



William Q. O. Shelton, former AAHGS-PGCM Chapter president, former AAHGS National archivist, historian, records manager, chairperson of the Awards Committee, member of the Board of Directors, family historian, preservationist, and Vice President of the Board of the Prince George’s County African American Museum and Cultural Center in North Brentwood, MD, received the Distinguished National Service Award. This award recognizes AAHGS’ members who have provided extraordinary, dedicated service of direct benefit to the AAHGS’ organization at the national level. Such service may be for a single act or for continuing service which far exceeds expectations in AAHGS national leadership in achieving the goals of the organization.



Julia Porter, Chapter board member, genealogist, family historian, retired public school teacher, and former AAHGS National Recording Secretary, received a Certificate of Appreciation for her commitment in creating genealogy programs for children in attendance at the PGCM’s Juneteenth Programs and conducting a series of children’s genealogy workshops at the Reginald Lewis Museum in Baltimore, MD.



Juneteenth genealogy workshop for children

The all volunteer non-profit organization’s major objectives are to promote Black History in Prince George’s County, to encourage the historical and genealogical studies of all persons, but especially those of African Americans currently residing in the county, to actively promote the preservation of persons, places, and things of historical significance to the African-American community, and to support the goals and objectives of the National organization. Chapter members lecture and present papers at family reunions, conferences, schools, churches, civic and community organizations, federal and state governments, and at Chapter meetings.

To learn more about your family genealogy and history, visit the AAHGS-PGCM website at [www.pgcm.aahgs.org](http://www.pgcm.aahgs.org).