

# AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Prince George's County Maryland Chapter  
P. O. Box 44252, Fort Washington, Maryland 20749-4252

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## Free Genealogy Workshops

The Prince George's County Council Districts 2, 4, 6 and the Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center at North Brentwood sponsor free genealogy workshops at the Hyattsville, Largo/Kettering, Greenbelt and South Bowie Memorial Libraries from February through July.

The workshops are conducted by the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc.-Prince George's County MD Chapter (AAHGS-PGCM). The presenters will teach participants the fundamentals of African-American historical and genealogical research. The sessions will provide the attendees with a step-by-step “how to” guide to tracing African-American lineage. These session will show participants how to identify sources, records, and other tools needed to organize and manage research materials. Activities will include surfing genealogical websites on the Internet, preparing for a research trip, developing a family tree, conducting oral interviews, understanding DNA testing, planning family reunions, and unlocking the mysteries of genealogy for children.

The keynote speaker are authors, professors, historians, genealogists, and preservationists. The event is free to the public. For more information, call Carolyn Rowe, (301) 292-6897 or Jane Thomas at (301) 292-1207.

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AAHGS-PGCM is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

## **2016 Genealogy Workshops – Districts 2, 4, and 6**

**District 2, Council Member Deni Taveras – Hyattsville Library, 6530 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782**

### **SAT, 1/9/16 – 2pm, Research Depositories/Repositories**

Where are they? How can one find all these wonderful records that have been described in some of the sessions? The lecturer will provide the name, give the location and tell what kind of information can be found in some of the many institutions that house the different types of historical and genealogical records. Some of them require an actual in-person visit; but most can be accessed through the Internet. Time, rather than distance, may be the only impediment to gathering data from these sources. Repositories can be libraries, archives, courthouses and other government offices.

### **SAT, 2/6/16 – 2pm, City Directories**

City directories are especially useful for family researchers because they contain information dating back to the early 1800s. Since most states did not begin compiling vital statistics until the twentieth century, these books contain the only verification of age, residence and sometimes marriage for many Americans. Participants will learn where to find them and how to use this valuable genealogical resource.

### **SAT, 3/5/16 – 2pm, Genealogy Research Using Military Records**

This workshop will provide participants with information on identifying family members who may have served in the military. The instructor will review with the attendees compiled service records (Army – regular or volunteer units, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard) which contain card abstracts taken from muster rolls, returns, pay vouchers and other records. These records provide information on ones' ancestors' rank, unit, date mustered in and mustered out, basic biographical, medical and military (officer or enlisted) information. Pension applications and pension payment records, between 1775 and 1916, contain supporting documents, such as, narratives of events during military service, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, pages from family Bibles, family letters, depositions of witnesses, affidavits, discharge papers and other supporting papers. If ancestors served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, early Indian Wars, or the Mexican War, Bounty Land records, between 1775 and March 1855, may be worthwhile to search.

**SAT, 4/2/16 – 2pm, Online Sources used for Genealogical Research** This workshop will expose the participants to free and paid online resources to assist them in genealogical research. True genealogical research takes work, but you might not have to travel quite as much to get the same results. Many states, cities, libraries, archives, etc. have begun to make their records available online. The instructor will introduce the participants to websites, such as, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, USGenWeb Project, Find-A-Grave, Fold3, GenealogyBank, RootsWeb.com, and others.

### **TUE, 5/10/16 – 7pm, Slave Records**

For many African Americans, the slavery era is the most difficult to research. There were no census records, no marriage records, no birth or death records for the majority of persons of African descent prior to 1870. Most enslaved people did not even have a surname and had often been separated from friends and family. Finding ancestry in these cases can be daunting. The workshop will provide some methodology on how one might sort through available data on the slaveholders' family to break through some of the brick walls surrounding this era.

### SAT, 6/4/16 – 2pm, DNA in Genealogical Research

This workshop will compliment other research, such as, visiting cemeteries, libraries, courthouses, archives, and newspapers by helping the students to fill in some of the gaps in their family trees. Science and technology have made it easier for African Americans to get an idea about their origins. In addition, dozens of companies now offer to examine your DNA or DeoxyriboNucleic Acid to help you learn more about your ancestry. (DeoxyriboNucleic Acid is the hereditary material in humans and almost all other organisms. Nearly every cell in a person's body has the same DNA. Most DNA is located in the cell nucleus where it is called nuclear DNA, but a small amount of DNA can also be found in the mitochondria or mtDNA.) The instructor will provide the participants with information regarding genetic testing companies. These companies may help the family historian determine country of origin, ethnicities, unknown relatives and other useful information about your heritage.

**District 4, Council Member Todd M. Turner – Greenbelt and South Bowie Libraries**  
**Greenbelt Library, 11 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770**  
**South Bowie Library, 15301 Hall Road, Bowie, MD 20716**

SAT, 1/23/16 – 2pm, Research Depositories/Repositories, **Greenbelt Library**

Where are they? How can one find all these wonderful records that have been described in some of the sessions? The lecturer will provide the name, give the location and tell what kind of information can be found in some of the many institutions that house the different types of historical and genealogical records. Some of them require an actual in-person visit; but most can be accessed through the Internet. Time, rather than distance, may be the only impediment to gathering data from these sources. Repositories can be libraries, archives, courthouses and other government offices.

SAT, 2/20/16 – 2pm, City Directories, **Greenbelt Library**

City directories are especially useful for family researchers because they contain information dating back to the early 1800s. Since most states did not begin compiling vital statistics until the twentieth century, these books contain the only verification of age, residence and sometimes marriage for many Americans. Participants will learn where to find them and how to use this valuable genealogical resource.

SAT, 3/12/16 – 2pm, Genealogy Research Using Military Records, **Greenbelt Library**

This workshop will provide participants with information on identifying family members who may have served in the military. The instructor will review with the attendees compiled service records (Army – regular or volunteer units, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard) which contain card abstracts taken from muster rolls, returns, pay vouchers and other records. These records provide information on ones' ancestors' rank, unit, date mustered in and mustered out, basic biographical, medical and military (officer or enlisted) information. Pension applications and pension payment records, between 1775 and 1916, contain supporting documents, such as, narratives of events during military service, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, pages from family Bibles, family letters, depositions of witnesses, affidavits, discharge papers and other supporting papers. If ancestors served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, early Indian Wars, or the Mexican War, Bounty Land records, between 1775 and March 1855, may be worthwhile to search.

**TUE, 4/12/16 – 7pm, Online Sources used for Genealogical Research, South Bowie Library**

This workshop will expose the participants to free and paid online resources to assist them in genealogical research. True genealogical research takes work, but you might not have to travel quite as much to get the same results. Many states, cities, libraries, archives, etc. have begun to make their records available online. The instructor will introduce the participants to websites, such as, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, USGenWeb Project, Find-A-Grave, Fold3, GenealogyBank, RootsWeb.com, and others.

**SAT, 5/14/16 – 2pm, Slave Records, South Bowie Library**

For many African Americans, the slavery era is the most difficult to research. There were no census records, no marriage records, no birth or death records for the majority of persons of African descent prior to 1870. Most enslaved people did not even have a surname and had often been separated from friends and family. Finding ancestry in these cases can be daunting. The workshop will provide some

methodology on how one might sort through available data on the slaveholder's family to break through some of the brick walls surrounding this era.

**SAT, 6/11/16 – 2pm, DNA in Genealogical Research**, South Bowie Library

This workshop will compliment other research, such as, visiting cemeteries, libraries, courthouses, archives, and newspapers by helping the students to fill in some of the gaps in their family trees.

Science and technology have made it easier for African Americans to get an idea about their origins. In addition, dozens of companies now offer to examine your DNA or DeoxyriboNucleic Acid to help you learn more about your ancestry. (DeoxyriboNucleic Acid is the hereditary material in humans and almost all other organisms. Nearly every cell in a person's body has the same DNA. Most DNA is located in the cell nucleus where it is called nuclear DNA, but a small amount of DNA can also be found in the mitochondria or mtDNA.) The instructor will provide the participants with information regarding genetic testing companies. These companies may help the family historian determine country of origin, ethnicities, unknown relatives and other useful information about your heritage.

**District 6, Council Member and Chair, Derrick Leon Davis – Largo Kettering Library, 9601 Capital Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772**

**SAT, 1/30/16 – 2pm, Genealogy for Children**

As history comes alive, this workshop will inspire children to search for their ancestors. Children can unlock the mysteries of other cultures, places, and times as they look for their families - when they were born, where they lived, and what they did to survive. The hands-on learning that a project brings to the classroom can help motivate students to learn, as well as encourage retention of the covered material. Family history can be used to teach not only history, but also language arts, writing, math, geography, and even science. Family history projects can also be used to teach and encourage communication, information-gathering, research, computer, analysis, and evaluation skills. It is also an excellent method for encouraging the acceptance of individual differences.

**SAT, 2/27/16 – 2pm, Research Depositories/Repositories**

Where are they? How can one find all these wonderful records that have been described in some of the sessions? The lecturer will provide the name, give the location and tell what kind of information can be found in some of the many institutions that house the different types of historical and genealogical records. Some of them require an actual in-person visit; but most can be accessed through the Internet. Time, rather than distance, may be the only impediment to gathering data from these sources. Repositories can be libraries, archives, courthouses and other government offices.

**TUE, 3/15/16 – 7pm, City Directories**

City directories are especially useful for family researchers because they contain information dating back to the early 1800s. Since most states did not begin compiling vital statistics until the twentieth century, these books contain the only verification of age, residence and sometimes marriage for many Americans. Participants will learn where to find them and how to use this valuable genealogical resource.

**SAT, 4/9/16 – 2pm, Genealogy Research Using Military Records**

This workshop will provide participants with information on identifying family members who may have served in the military. The instructor will review with the attendees compiled service records (Army – regular or volunteer units, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard) which contain card abstracts taken from muster rolls, returns, pay vouchers and other records. These records provide information on ones' ancestors' rank, unit, date mustered in and mustered out, basic biographical, medical and military (officer or enlisted) information. Pension applications and pension payment records, between 1775 and 1916, contain supporting documents, such as, narratives of events during military service, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, pages from family Bibles, family letters, depositions of witnesses, affidavits, discharge papers and other supporting papers. If ancestors served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, early Indian Wars, or the Mexican War, Bounty Land records, between 1775 and March 1855, may be worthwhile to search.

### TUE, 5/17/16 – 7pm, Online Sources used for Genealogical Research

This workshop will expose the participants to free and paid online resources to assist them in genealogical research. True genealogical research takes work, but you might not have to travel quite as much to get the same results. Many states, cities, libraries, archives, etc. have begun to make their records available online. The instructor will introduce the participants to websites, such as, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, USGenWeb Project, Find-A-Grave, Fold3, GenealogyBank, RootsWeb.com, and others.

### TUE, 6/14/16 – 7pm, Slave Records

For many African Americans, the slavery era is the most difficult to research. There were no census records, no marriage records, no birth or death records for the majority of persons of African descent prior to 1870. Most enslaved people did not even have a surname and had often been separated from friends and family. Finding ancestry in these cases can be daunting. The workshop will provide some methodology on how one might sort through available data on the slaveholders family to break through some of the brick walls surrounding this era.

### TUE, 6/21/16 – 7pm, DNA in Genealogical Research

This workshop will compliment other research, such as, visiting cemeteries, libraries, courthouses, archives, and newspapers by helping the students to fill in some of the gaps in their family trees. Science and technology have made it easier for African Americans to get an idea about their origins. In addition, dozens of companies now offer to examine your DNA or DeoxyriboNucleic Acid to help you learn more about your ancestry. (DeoxyriboNucleic Acid is the hereditary material in humans and almost all other organisms. Nearly every cell in a person's body has the same DNA. Most DNA is located in the cell nucleus where it is called nuclear DNA, but a small amount of DNA can also be found in the mitochondria or mtDNA.) The instructor will provide the participants with information regarding genetic testing companies. These companies may help the family historian determine country of origin, ethnicities, unknown relatives and other useful information about your heritage.