

Recaps of January – November 2009 Programs:

January 3, 2009: *Part 1: Beginning Genealogy Information & Resources and Part 2: State Club Updates & Breakout Sessions*

The presentation focusing on beginning genealogy by Peggy Sawyer Williams, Immediate Past President, was postponed to a later date. The meeting proceeded with the popular State Club Updates and Breakout Sessions led by the regional group facilitators. Members and guests researching persons from specific states exchanged research tips and other pertinent information.

February 7, 2009: *Margaret McCall Thomas Ward History Maker: Dr. Norman McRae, Jr. Educator, Historian, Author & FHWGS Charter Member*

The Society's Annual African American History Month Celebration was presented in collaboration with the DPL in the Old Fine Arts Room. The program honored Dr. Norman McRae, Jr. for his exemplary personal and professional accomplishments as an educator, historian, author and scholar of African American History. Joann Marie Davis, longtime FHWGS member, unveiled the book that she authored: *Biography of Dr. Norman McRae, Jr.: Educator and Administrator, Scholar in African American History, and Historian and Charter Member of Michigan's First African American Genealogical Society*. Her remarks focused on his contributions to the Society as a Charter Member, as a member of the Board of Directors, and as its first Historian. Guests were treated to a segment from the video produced by Ron Burgess and Joann that chronicles his many contributions. Striking exhibit panels assembled by Society member Doris Williams were also on display. Friends, relatives, fellow genealogists, and former colleagues delivered remarks acknowledging the legacy of Dr. McRae. Resolutions were presented to Dr. McRae by the Honorable Joann Nichols from the Detroit City Council and from the Office of the Honorable Jennifer Granholm, Governor, State of Michigan. A lovely reception followed where family, friends, colleagues and Society members enjoyed visiting with Dr. McRae.

Copies of Dr. McRae's biography have been donated to the Library of Michigan, Lansing, Michigan, Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, and the African American Collection, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. On behalf of the membership, I extend gratitude and thanks to Joann Marie Davis, Peggy Sawyer Williams, Doris Williams, Ron Burgess and Felicia Lewis-Williams for your integral contributions in support of the program. I'd also like to offer our thanks and appreciation to all other committee members for your assistance and participation.

March 7, 2009: *Helping Hands & Hearts: The Story of the UGRR in Farmington, Michigan*

Rochelle Danquah, historian and FHWGS Board Member, discussed the history of Farmington's founders and their contributions to the Underground Railroad movement in Southeastern Michigan. An outstanding and detailed power point presentation featuring photos, maps, and supportive resource materials, a creative tabletop display, and handouts prompted a lively Q & A session.

Felicia Lewis Williams, First Vice President and 30th Anniversary Celebration Chair, presented the preliminary plan and introduced planning committee members and teams, for the program and luncheon held on November 7, 2009 at the DPL, Main Branch.

April 18, 2009: *Michigan in Perspective, 51st Annual Conference on Local History, WSU, McGregor Memorial Conference Center, Detroit, MI*

The panel topic, *Swimming Upstream: Detroit's African American Physicians*, focused on the history of African Americans in the field of medicine and hospital administration. Society President, Leslie C. Williams served as and Roberta Hughes Wright, Ph.D., Attorney-at-Law, Retired, daughter of Dr. Robert Greenidge, co-founder of Fairview Hospital and Sanitarium, was the presenter and panel facilitator.