

**DELAWARE
AFRO-AMERICAN
HISTORICAL AND
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**



**DELAWARE CHAPTER
ORGANIZED SEPTEMBER 22, 2012
CHARTERED MEMBER OCTOBER 10, 2013
AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL &
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

History of an AAHGS Chapter in the State of Delaware

The AAHGS (Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society) chapter in the first state started after an African American Genealogy Workshop hosted by the Delaware Genealogical Society, at the Delaware History Museum on September 22, 2012. Approximately 70 people attended this workshop. At the workshop Shamele Jordon and Sylvester Woolford spoke about the African-American genealogy and Jim Jones spoke of the need to preserve photographs and old documents. After this very successful workshop Alicia Clarke, an employee of the Delaware History Museum, Syl Woolford, Willis Phelps and Jim Jones decided that it would be a great idea to start an African American genealogy group in Delaware. The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Inc. was considered to be the right national organization to join.

An informal meeting held at the home of Jim Jones in October 2012 began the formal undertaking to become a sanctioned AAHGS chapter. By February 2013, we had volunteers for interim officers. Interim officer positions were selected: President Erwin Polk; Vice-President & Secretary Syl Woolford, Treasurer Jim Jones, Keeper of Documents Willis Phelps.

Founding Members Were: Darlene Amobi, Alicia Clarke, Jim Jones, Bruce King, Willis Phelps, Erwin Polk and Syl Woolford. Later, we were joined by Wilhelmina Frieson, Towanda Brown, Regina Barry, and Dena Chasten-Ellis.

A Membership planning meeting was held on March 9, 2013 at the Bear Library. The keynote presenter was Nathania Branch-Miles told us about AAHGS National and what we needed to do to join this organization.

September 28, 2013: First Annual DEAAHGS Founders celebration held at the Delaware History Museum with guest speaker Noreen Goodson of the Agnes Kane Callum, Baltimore Chapter of AAHGS.

Final document including By-Laws were sent to AAHGS National for acceptance as a new chapter, with 15 paid members. Three of the chapter members are affiliated with multiple AAHGS chapters.

October 10, 2013: AAHGS National officially accepted and approved our application for national membership admittance.

Mission:

To educate and train members and the community on how to research, record and present facts about African-American history and genealogy.

Objectives:

- To provide expert knowledge on genealogy and historical research.
- To promote and develop special programs focused on genealogy education, oral presentation, and written publications.
- To create networks and exchange of information with historical and genealogical groups.
- To offer members programs and activities which improve research and presentation skills; to support the development of written publications.

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc

AAHGS National was founded by seven historians and genealogists with a common interest in promoting the research of African American family history and genealogy at a meeting held on May 5, 1977 at the home of James Dent Walker in Washington, DC.

AAHGS Nationals Mission

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc, is a non-profit, membership organization committed to the preservation of the history, genealogy, and culture of the African-Ancestored populations of the local, national, and international community.

AAHGS stresses the importance of our history and genealogy by encouraging active participation in recording research and documenting personal family histories.

Membership

The National membership has grown from seven founding members in 1977, to seventy charter members in 1978, and 1000 members in 2020. The organization currently has 37 chapters.

AAHGS CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY DEAAHGS Members

2014 – Pittsburg, PA 2015 – Richmond, VA 2016 – Atlanta, GA
2017 – North Carolina, (Cruise) 2018 – Valley Forge, PA 2019 – Maryland
2020 – 2021 – 2022 Virtual Conferences

Chapter Accomplishments For The Year 2013

February 2013: Interim Officers volunteered to positions at Executive Committee meeting.

February 20, 2013: The airing of members that were interviewed by Ben Szmidt of WDDW radio Delaware First Media, for Black History Month.

March 9, 2013: Meeting and introduction to AAHGS National, presented by Nathania Branch-Miles at the Bear Delaware Library.

April 2013: Tax ID (EIN) number was obtained, and a checking account was opened at the TD Bank on March and Silverside Roads.

May 4, 2013: A planning and appeal for membership meeting at the Woodlawn Library.

June 4, 2013: The chapter e-mail address of (deaahgs@gmail.com) was created.

June 22, 2013: How to present Genealogy for beginners and intermediate researchers, presenter Erwin Polk and Syl Woolford at Woodlawn Library.

July 27, 2013: Election of officers for a two-year term was held at Bear Library.

August 24 & 25, 2013: DEAAHGS chapter met to attend August Quarterly representing the chapter.

September 28, 2013: Annual DEAAHGS celebration at the Delaware History Museum with guest speaker Noreen Goodson of the Agnes Kane Callum, Baltimore Chapter of AAHGS. Final documents including By-Laws were sent to AAHGS National for acceptance as a new chapter.

October 10, 2013: AAHGS National officially accepted and approved our application for national membership admittance.

October 26, 2013: Presentation of African American cemeteries in the State of Delaware was given by Dr. Regina Barry at the Brandywine Library.

November 23, 2013: DNA and its use in Genealogy was presented by Dena Chasten-Ellis at the Brandywine Library.

December 10, 2013: Dena Chasten-Ellis, opened a DEAAHGS Chapter on to Chapter account on Facebook.

December 2013: Negotiation with the Brandywine Library for a permanent meeting location began.

Executive Committee Officers

Founding Year 2013

Jim Jones – President and Treasurer 2013 to 2016

Erwin Polk – Vice President of Genealogy 2013 to Present

Darlene Amobi – Vice President of History 2013 to 2016

Syl Woolford – Technician and Webinar 2013 to 2015

Mike Lumpkin – Photos and Videos 2013 to 2016

Executive Committee Officers Updated

Marian Carpenter – Interim President 2016, part of 2017

Rosalyn Green – President 2017 to Present

Erwin Polk – Vice President of Genealogy

Diane James – Vice President of History 2016-2017

Florence Collins Hardy – Secretary 2015 to 2019,

Vice President of History 2019 to Present

Marlene Jones – Secretary 2019 to Present

Stacey Roberts – Treasurer 2013/2014 to Present

Diane Sheldon – Archivist (Keeper of Records)

Regina Barry – Website and Facebook

Inactive Committees

Spoken Word

Grants and Fundraising

Public Partnership – Public Relations

Photos and Videos

DEAAHGS LOCATIONS OF PRESENTATIONS

Libraries

Bear – Bear, DE

Brandywine – North Wilmington

Woodlawn – Wilmington, DE

New Castle – New Castle, DE

Claymont – Claymont, DE

Hockessin – Hockessin, DE

Wilmington – Downtown Wilmington, DE

Route 9 Library and Innovation Center – New Castle, DE

Other Locations in Delaware

Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage

Community Presbyterian Church

Canaan Baptist Church

Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew

Blue Ball Barn (Delaware State Parks)

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs – State of Delaware (Dover)

Delaware City – Delaware City, DE

Programs Attended

August Quarterly (Sunday Services)

Delaware Genealogy Society Programs

Monthly Presentations and Programs on History and Genealogy For African Americans

Presentation Subjects By Guest Speakers

The Africa American Experience

Hands on Genealogy Research

**The Remarkable Solomon and
Thamar Bayley**

Negro Baseball Leagues

**Researching The Delaware Public
Archives**

Juneteenth

Women's Delaware 19th Amendment

**Singing and Praying Bands
Baltimore, Md and Wilmington, DE**

Iron Hill History

History Workshops

**Women's Delaware 19th Amendment
Commemoration – Women's Suffrage**

**African Americans and The
Civil War**

**Family Reunions and Family Tree
"Your Story"**

Genealogy What Is It?

**Family Reunions and Family Tree
"Your Story"**

Underground Railroad (Delaware)

Story of Bessie Coleman

**Same Story/Different Countries
Production History**

**Family History Center
How to Use The Freedom Bureau**

**Genealogical Historical Research
Pre-1870**

**Ghana Queen (Africa) Videos
Tena Coffield Her Story**

**History of African American
Education In Delaware:
Colonial Times to Present**

Story Of The Christiana Resistance

**"The Women's Suffrage Movement
Below the Color Line"**

**Researching, Writing and Publishing
Your Family Legacy**

**Using The Freedmen's Bureau For
Genealogy Research**

Presentation Subjects By Chapter Members

Brick Wall and Genealogical Sessions Once or Twice Yearly

DNA Research Strategies

**Genealogy Seminar
Autosomal DNA Testing**

**Family History Research
And New To Find It
Stories**

**Buffalo Soldiers
A Proud History**

East Side History

African American History Workshops

**“Introduction to Researching
Your Family Tree”**

**400 Years Of African American
Contributions**

**Mary Ann Shadd Cary
University of Delaware
Play Performance**

**Black History Months
Presentations With
Displays Of Members Research**

**African Origins of People
Brought To America In The
Trans-Atlantic Trade**

**“The Language You Cry In” Story
Gullah Family Finding Their Roots In
Sierra Leone Through Song
Guest Presenters**

Dr. James Newton

Dr Peter Dalleo

**“Say Amen Somebody”
Father Of Gospel Music
Thomas Andrew Dorsey**

Back to Our Roots and to Find It

Cemeteries: They Tell Many

In New Castle County Delaware

**Hard As A Rock – Preserving Head
Preserving Head Stones**

**“Major Slave Era Auctions, The
Africans Sold and Their Buyers”**

**From My Family’s Oral History
To An Article**

History of Negro Spirituals

The Weeping time

**Blacks in WWII & The Units They
Served With**

**The 6400 Block of Clearview St.
of Philadelphia, PA**

**The other Polk Family of Clearview
Street in Philadelphia**

**Black History Learned From
AAHGS Chapters & Members**

**Dr. Gregg Carr
Thomas Summers
Ashley S.K. Davis
Sharon Moore
Shamele Jordon
Syl Woolford
Owen Thorn
Flora McCokey
Kamau Ngom
Ron Whittington**

Guest Authors

**African in New Sweden: The Untold Story – Abdullah R. Muhammad
Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slavery and Their Astonishing
Odyssey Home – Richard Bell
Hinsonville’s Heroes: Black Civil War Soldiers of Chester County,
Pennsylvania – Dr. Cheryl Gooch
Too Brown To Keep – Judy Fambrough-Billingsley
“The Christiana Resistance A 19th Century Riot, Freedom Began Here”
Darlene Colon**

Founders Day Celebrations

Year and Location

2013 – Delaware History Museum

2015 – Brandywine Library Celebration and Genealogy Expo

2016 – Brandywine Library (Need More Information)

2017 – Saints Andrew and Matthew Episcopal Church
Celebration and Genealogy Expo - Members Program
Displays

2018 – Bear Library Buffalo Soldiers – Erwin Polk

2019 – Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew
Kmau Ngom Presentation

2020 – The Reverse Underground Railroad: Kidnapping Slavery
Slavery and Justice

2021 – September 18th: Shamele Jordon Workshop

Special Presentations

Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage:
Negro Spirituals – Florence Collins Hardy

Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slavery and Their
Astonishing Odyssey Home – Richard Bell

Using The Freedmen's Bureau For Genealogy Research
Shamele Jordon

STARTING YOUR RESEARCH

- Begin with yourself and work your way back through the generations.
- Use a Pedigree Chart and Family Group sheet to fill in what you know. List parents and grandparents.
- Talk to relatives and family friends to gather more information about your family.
- Research vital (birth, records, marriage, divorce and death records).
- Research federal census records.
- Read books and magazines about genealogy.
- Seek assistance from Family History Centers, libraries, archives, and public records.
- Join genealogy groups who have people experienced in doing research.

INTERNET WEB SITES

www.familysearch.org
(free)
www.ancestry.com
(paid subscription)

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are usually held the

4th Saturday of each month

January to November

10:30 AM to 1:00 PM
(No meeting in December)

Brandywine Library

1300 Foulk Road
Wilmington, Delaware

19803

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Research and preservation of our history is essential, because knowing the past becomes the future for all generations coming after us.

DELAWARE

**AFRO-AMERICAN
HISTORICAL AND
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY, INC.**



*"We do all this for
Our Ancestors and*

Future Generations."

**DEAAHGS
P.O. BOX 7205
WILMINGTON, DE
19803**

OUR MISSION

To educate and train members and the community on how to research, record and present facts about African-American history and genealogy.

CHAPTER HISTORY

DEAAHGS is a chartered member of the National Organization of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. (AAHGS). The chapter was formed in 2012 with seven founding members. Each year we have grown in membership and knowledge of our rich heritage. Our organization continues to provide support for historical and genealogical research throughout the African-American Community of Delaware. We encourage all members to research, document and publish their family history.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual \$60. Family \$75.
(Includes yearly chapter and national membership)
Organizations \$85.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- ♦ To provide expert guidance on historical and genealogical research.
- ♦ To promote and develop special programs focused on genealogy education, oral presentations and written publications.
- ♦ To create networks and exchange of information with other historical and genealogical groups.
- ♦ To offer members programs and activities that improve research and presentation skills.
- ♦ To support the development of written publications.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

How did you hear about DEAAHGS?

For more information:

Email: deeahgs@hotmail.com

My Family



Our History

Our Genealogy

Our Research

OPEN PAGE