

Panel participants were: David Northcross, son of Dr. David Northcross, Jr. and grandson of Drs. David and Daisy Northcross, founders of MercyGeneral, Detroit's first African American hospital; Amyre Porter Makupson, retired TV news anchor, talk show host and producer at WKBD Detroit, daughter of Dr. Rudy Porter, who practiced at Sumbly Hospital found by Dr. Samuel Milton; and Dr. Cal Dudley, a board certified forensic psychiatrist and third generation graduate of Meharry Medical School in Tennessee, and grandson of Dr. DeWitt T. Burton, co-founder of Burton Mercy Hospital. Each panelist shared the challenges, obstacles, and discriminatory practices that Black physicians experienced and the need for hospitals primarily serving African American patients.

**May 2, 2009: Annual Meeting and Election of Officers**

Second Vice President and Nominations Chair, Walter Webb conducted the election. Four (4) Board of Directors were on the ballot for reelection. All were unanimously reelected for the term ending in 2011 as follows: Anthony Crutchfield for a 5<sup>th</sup> Term, Rochelle Danquah for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Term, Lillian Holland for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Term and Constance Wall for a 4<sup>th</sup> Term.

Certificates of Appreciation were then presented by President Leslie C. Williams to all board members, and to Society members Joann Marie Davis, Ronald Burgess, Ruth Beverly, Doris Williams, Patricia Perry and Constance Porter in recognition of their many hours of volunteer service. Program presenter and board member Anthony Crutchfield shared his family history in *One Family's Story*, documented in an engaging power point presentation. The inspiring presentation included a display of precious family artifacts. A lively Q & A session closed out the program.

**June 6, 2009: Annual Karl Hamilton Field Trip: Cass County Historical Sites**

Co-chair, Maurice Sanders organized an outstanding and in-depth tour of local cemeteries, churches and Underground Railroad sites in Cass County and the surrounding communities. Each participant received a beautiful packet containing background information and ink pens inscribed with the FHWGS logo as a souvenir. Peggy Sawyer Williams served as co-chair for the trip arranged in collaboration with the Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society.

**September 12, 2009: Volunteering in Detroit: Seniors Make the Motor City Run**

Maurice Sanders, FHWGS Board Member, and Pam Halladay and Rachel Hewitt, representing the Luella Hannan Foundation, led a *Listening and Discussion Party* incorporating a power point overview of the *Detroit Griot Oral History Project*. The featured interviews, gathered from individuals over the age of 60 who have 25 years or more of volunteer experience, provide a model for producing a comprehensive oral history project designed to preserve stories and promote positive images of Detroit. Initiative partners are the Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation, FHWGS, The Westsiders, WDET, The Arts League of Michigan, and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

**September 26, 2009: "Not Far From the Tree" 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Family History Festival, DPL**

The annual festival co-sponsored by FHWGS, DSGR, and the DPL Friends Foundation enjoyed another successful year. Society members were noted at all of the sessions. This year, FHWGS member Dr. Deborah Abbott, President, African American Genealogy Society of Cleveland, and festival favorite, presented a two part session entitled *Shaping Your Genealogical Research: Bringing Your Family to Life* before a packed audience. Thank you to all board members who assisted with activities at the Society's display station and with program set-ups.

**October 3, 2009: Part 1: Beginning Genealogy Information and Resources  
Presenter: Peggy Sawyer Williams, Immediate Past President  
Part 2: State Club Updates and Breakout Sessions**

The rescheduled presentation focusing on beginning genealogy was very well attended. Participants learned the fundamental methods and practices for conducting research. In addition, members and guests researching persons from specific states exchanged research tips and other pertinent information in concurrent State Club Updates and Breakout Sessions led by regional group facilitators.