



2016

MARGARET

MCCALL THOMAS WARD

HISTORY MAKER

PEGGY SAWYER WILLIAMS

■ **Family Historian and Genealogist**



■ **Descendant of Free Black Michigan Pioneers**

■ **Descendant of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

■ **Sixth President, 1999 – 2006, of the
Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society**

MILESTONES

Compiled by Joann Marie Davis

1981

An interest in family history and a commitment to genealogical research motivated Peggy to become a member of the Detroit based Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society (FHWGS), Michigan's first African American genealogical society formed in 1979.

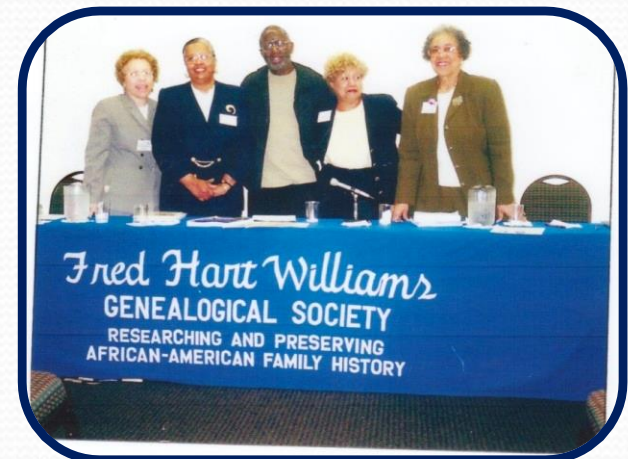


1986

She introduced the concept of genealogical outreach programs to the community – workshops and classes were conducted in libraries, churches, recreational centers, YWCA and more.

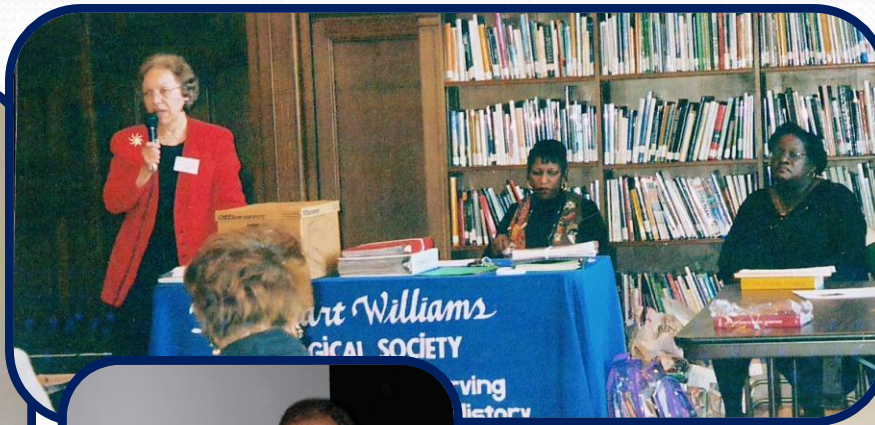
1990's

- As a member of the Society, she participated in numerous committees, conducted workshops, served on the Board of Directors, and served as Membership Committee chairperson.
- For several years, Peggy attended and made presentations at the annual Michigan in Perspective Local History Conferences and served as the assigned Delegate to the Michigan Genealogical Council.



1999 TO 2006

Served as President of the FHWGS where she demonstrated professionalism, administrative capabilities, and leadership. Impressive contributions were made during her tenure. Under her impressive leadership, the Society revised and computerized the history of FHWGS, published biographies of the founder and presidents, updated the by-laws and the membership directory, and organized the archives.



PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES



1999

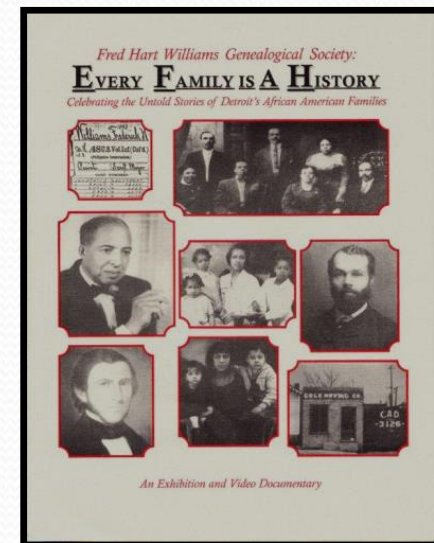
Contributed to the planning and success of the Society's twentieth anniversary celebration on November 6, 1999

2000

▪Contributed to the success of Detroit 300, a celebration of the 300th birthday of the founding of Detroit

▪Published the first of a kind publication, *Our Untold Stories: A Collection of Family History Narratives*

▪Supported the creation of a commemorative 10 panel exhibition under the direction of Leslie C. Williams, current Society President, *Every Family is a History*, which depicts the histories of four prominent Detroit families.



2001

▪Joined in commemorating Detroit's role in the Underground Railroad through the dedication of two monuments; *Gateway to Freedom* on the Detroit side of the river and *the Tower of Freedom* on the Canadian side of the Detroit River.

▪Conferred Honorary Life Member title upon Margaret McCall Thomas Ward, Founder of the FHWGS.



2004

▪Contributed to the planning of the Society's twenty-fifth anniversary celebration, held on November 6, 2004.

▪Assumed a leadership role in organizing the Society's first fundraiser at the Detroit Repertory Theater

▪Donated the Leontine Cole Smith Collection to the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library.





2006

In her final year as Society president, Peggy received statewide recognition for her expertise in and contributions to the field of genealogy. Randy Riley, Special Collections Manager, Library of Michigan, Lansing, Michigan presented her with the prestigious Genealogist of the Year Award, at the meeting of the Michigan Genealogical Council.



2006 TO PRESENT

In subsequent years, Peggy has remained an active contributor in her role as Immediate Past President serving as chair of the Special Projects Committee and the Archives Committee; coordinated book projects, served as Newsletter Editor, State Clubs Facilitator and Society historian, and assisted with the planning of the Society's 30th and 35th anniversary celebrations.

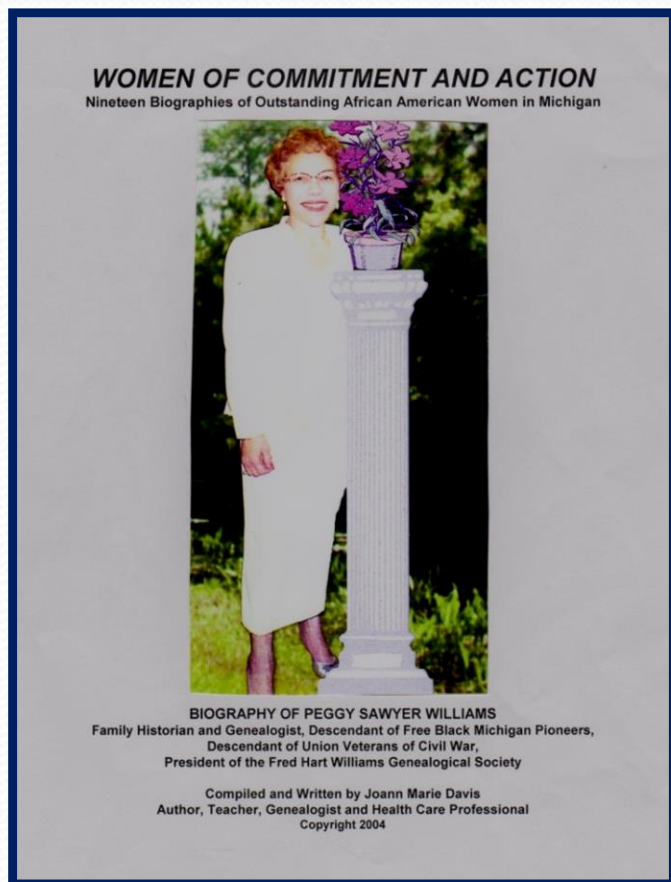


PEGGY HARD AT WORK

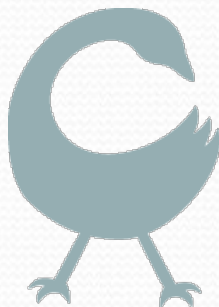


AND HAVING FUN





The lifetime accomplishments of Peggy Sawyer-Williams are substantive in content, noteworthy in duration, and exemplary in scope. Her achievements are prolific and multi-faceted. First and foremost, she is an exceptional genealogist who has been recognized by her peers for sound scholarship, careful research, and accurate documentation. For 35 years she has been a mentor and workshop leader who has instructed hundreds of beginning, intermediate and advanced genealogists in basic research techniques and documentation, organizing materials, and completing various genealogical forms and charts. Peggy leaves a rich legacy to fellow genealogists and remains a treasured role model and advisor to Society members.



**CONGRATULATIONS
PEGGY SAWYER WILLIAMS
2016**

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HISTORY MAKER

FRED HART WILLIAMS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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HISTORY MAKERS



2008

Gilbert A. Maddox, PhD
Educator, Historian,
Pioneer in Black Radio
and Television
Broadcasting Media



2009

Norman McRae, PhD
Author, Educator, Administrator,
Scholar in African
American Life and Culture,
Charter Member, FHWGS



2009

De Witt S. Dykes, Jr.
Educator, Historian,
Founding/Charter Member
and First FHWGS
President



2011

John W. Hardy
Civil Rights Activist,
Freedom Rider, Member
Student Non-Violent
Coordinating Committee
(SNCC)



2014

Joann Marie Davis
Author, Biographer, Family
Historian and Genealogist,
FHWGS Life Member



2014

Naomi Long Madgett, PhD
Author, Poet, Publisher,
Educator, Family Historian
and Member, FHWGS



2014

Roy L. Roulhac, JD
Jurist, Author, Family
Historian and Genealogist,
Life Member and Fourth
President, FHWGS



2016

Mamie King Chalmers
Civil Rights Activist,
Birmingham and Selma AL
Freedom Fighter and
Member, FHWGS



2016

Gloria Aneb House, PhD
Educator, Historian, Poet, Civil
Rights Activist, Member,
Student Non-Violent
Coordinating Committee



2016

Wallace Peace, PhD
Educator, Historian,
Civil Rights Activist



2016

Terry Shaw
Civil Rights Activist and
organizer, President
Student Movement of
Selma AL and member
Student Nonviolent
Coordinating Committee
(SNCC)



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the Civil War and
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