



*The Paul Edward Sluby, Sr. Meritorious Award is the second highest award that can be bestowed by AAHGS upon a person who has exhibited distinguished performance through a significant and measurable contribution to African American history and/or genealogy within the past two years.*



*Marion Woodfork Simmons* is the recipient of the AAHGS Meritorious Award. Marion is an award-winning author, community historian, genealogist, business owner, blogger, teacher and lecturer. She has been involved in genealogical research for over twenty years. While researching her ancestors from Caroline County, Virginia, she noticed the lack of historical information about African Americans. Over the past three years, she has conducted oral history interviews and documented some of the fascinating stories of the lives of African Americans from all walks of life in Caroline County. In 2010, Marion began documenting the history of Union High School, the County's only high school for African Americans. She interviewed and collected information and artifacts from over 100 alumni, faculty, family and friends. In 2011, Marion self-published the book *Memories of Union High: An Oasis in Caroline County, Virginia 1903 to 1969*. She was recognized as a finalist in the African American non-fiction category for the 2012 National Indie Excellence Award, and has received local acclaim for her book. Currently, Marion dedicates her time and speaking talent to inspiring others to study and preserve family and local history.