PRESS RELEASE

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Arkansas Children’s Book Author, Maria Hoskins Presented with Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) International Book Award

KING OF PRUSSIA, Pennsylvania – The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. (AAHGS) presented Arkansas Children’s Book Author, Maria Hoskins with Children’s General International Book Award, for her book, *Down Home in Arkansas, A Family Reunion Story,* illustrated by artist Wade Hampton*.*

The International AAHGS Book Award® categories celebrate published works that promote the knowledge of African American history, genealogy and research, and to introduce the substantial contributions made by African Americans in American and International history.  Maria Hoskins will join an admirable list of honorees to include Arkansas’ Maya Angelou.

The intent of the awards is to honor published works in the combined areas of: (a) scholarly research; (b) cover and interior design; (c) promotional text; (d) aesthetic components and other factors that demonstrate outstanding presentation, in addition to (e) the written word.

The International AAHGS Book Awards is a competitive contest established to recognize, promote and honor authors of high quality publications that accurately examine and portray African-ancestored family history and genealogy in a wide variety of genres both fiction and non-fiction, for adults and young readers.

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) takes great pride in sponsoring this book Awards program as part of its mission to document and disseminate research to all sectors of the American population on the history, struggles, and contributions of African Americans from Jamestown to the present. While film and video are vastly popular, books remain the primary and definitive locus and resource for the recording and teaching of history and genealogy especially in educational settings.

AAHGS is a non-profit, charitable 501(c)3 organization committed to the preservation of African-ancestored family history, genealogy, and cultural diversity by teaching research techniques and disseminating information throughout the community. The primary goals are to promote scholarly research, provide resources for historical and genealogical studies, create a network of persons with similar interests, and assist members in documenting their histories.

If you would like more information about the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society International Book Awards, visit AAHGS.org. To find out more about Maria Hoskins other children’s books to include: *Christmas Night on the Farm, Grandma’s Thanksgiving Dinner, My Easter Story, and Papa’s Pets,* visit [www.seasons2dream.com](http://www.seasons2dream.com) or call Garbo Hearne at Pyramid Art Books and Custom Framing (501) 372-5824.