

“Written in Stone”

A Newsletter of Historic Hope, Windsor, North Carolina
Fall 2017 – Co-Editors: Joe Cooper, Phyllis Broughton



From the President – Turner Sutton

We have had a very busy summer at Historic Hope. The two major events were the Seventh Family History and Genealogy Fair on July 29th and the conference “Three Hundred Years of Indian Woods, 1717-2017: Tuscarora’s Reservation in North Carolina.” The Indian Woods conference was one of the most significant events we have ever held at Hope. Nearly 100 people attended, most of which had never been to Hope before. Eighteen members of the Tuscarora Tribe in New York, including Chief Leo Henry, came down for the conference. It was an excellent and informative conference. We received some very good press coverage from the Bertie Ledger, Roanoke-Chowan News Herald, and the Raleigh News and Observer. In addition to these two events, we have hosted seven weddings and three family reunions this year.

The bathroom at the Mansion was painted in June and we plan to begin painting the King-Bazemore house in November. We hope to paint the dairy and fence in 2018. Then, the Mansion, King-Bazemore house and all of the outbuildings will have been painted in the last three years.



Preparations are almost complete for Christmas open house on December 3rd. This year’s event is co-chaired by Dr. Phyllis Broughton and the Reverend Joe Cooper. Christmas has always been a very special time at Historic Hope. The first decorations that were placed in the mansion were made by several of the Director’s wives for the Board of Directors Christmas party. They were based on decorations that Jack and Margaret Tyler, Steve and Margaret Burch, Nancy Rascoe, Marian Perry and others had seen at Williamsburg. The number of decorations slowly grew and in 1972 the decorated mansion was opened to the public. Margaret Burch, was chairman, a position she held for 5 years. At that time, few historic places decorated for Christmas and people were interested in seeing the decorations and learning how to copy them. Becky Carter and Elma Byrd started the idea of serving spiced cider, apple juice, and old style cookies, a tradition that has continued until today. The first full description of Christmas at Hope that I could find was for Christmas 1973, which I have abstracted in this newsletter. (Many thanks to Marian Perry and Margaret Burch who sent me their recollections of the first-time decorations that were used in the mansion.)

Best wishes to each of you for a very happy holiday season from the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Turner B. Sutton
President of Historic Hope Foundation

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INDIAN WOODS CONFERENCE



Historic Hope was an apropos setting for the conference “Three Hundred Years of Indian Woods, 1717-2017” because

Governor David Stone and his father Zedekiah both served as commissioners of Indian Lands. The first day was filled with papers presented by speakers from as far away as Cornell University. The paper session was opened by Chief Leo Henry who declared that at this conference – despite the many experiences that we all brought to it - “Now our minds are one”. Some of the topics covered in the presentations included the life and career of Chief Tom Blount, land leases entered into by the Tuscarora Nation, the sale of Indian Woods, “The Indian Gallows: A Poem”, and race and ancestral ambiguity in North Carolina. Conference guests were then invited to the Indian Woods Community event at the Blue Jay Recreation Center where they were treated to an elaborate dinner which included chicken, beef, pork, turkey, turtle, bear and many excellent side dishes. On Sunday we heard talks by members of the



Tuscarora Historical Society. Chief Leo Henry told us about the efforts they had taken to recover their language,

culture and traditional practices. Subsequent speakers told about establishing a school for Tuscarora children on their reservation in New York and the history of recovering and teaching the Tuscarora language. After lunch, Dr. Arwin Smallwood made a presentation about growing up in Indian Woods and how it has changed today. During the afternoon there was a traditional corn husking bee that involved husking and braiding the corn. Vince Schiffert brought the Indian White

Corn from New York, since coons and deer ate most of the corn planted at Hope. In the evening we were served a traditional cornbread and corn soup dinner, cooked by members of the tribe. Following dinner, we were treated to traditional music, songs, and dances. The young dancers were unbelievably lithe as they danced counter clockwise around a group of 10 drummers, shakers, and chanters. On Monday morning, the members of the Tuscarora tribe were taken on a bus tour of Indian Woods, hosted by Drs. Ben Speller and Arwin Smallwood, before departing for New York.

AMAZON SMILE



As the Christmas season is approaching, many of you use Amazon.com for ordering various items. Amazon has a program, Amazon Smile, whereby they will donate a small percentage of the price of the items that you purchase to a charitable organization of your choice. Historic Hope Foundation now has an account. They don't pay a lot (0.5% of your purchase) but if everyone participates, it will add up. Please consider participating. It is very easy to use. You can use your existing Amazon.com account, password, etc. You can sign up through Amazon, or follow the link at the bottom of Hope's home page (www.hopeplantation.org).

CHRISTMAS 1973 AT HOPE

The following was abstracted from an article by Laura Harrell in the 1974 Ball Program.

“The warm glow of candles from the windows of Hope penetrated the chilling rain of Sunday, December 16, and drew more than 150 visitors to the mansion. Hope was bedecked in Christmas decorations in keeping with the period of the house. Fruit was used in several of the rooms and the massive front door arrangements. The wreaths on the front door were done by Mrs. J. C. Jacocks in the traditional manner using a half pineapple as the center attraction. The door was opened to reveal a large traditional kissing ball in the hallway arch and



pine and berries were used around a candle centerpiece on the large hall tables. Garlands in the family

room downstairs and the drawing room upstairs were done in pine and red velvet ribbons.

A favorite place was the winter kitchen. Mrs. George Madre, Jr. and Mrs. John B. Gillam III were responsible for the room. Food on the table was complete to the last detail including collards. Duck, quail and rabbits were hung in the corner. A large ham was loaned by Norman Perry to become what was judged to be the most valuable part of the decorations. Probably the most complete room was the dining room. Arrangements of fruit were used freely here with a large center arrangement done by Mrs. Norman Perry. Silverware was 18th century style loaned by Belk Tyler. Plates were late 18th century soft paste with an oriental motif and were also on loan. Wine glasses from the 18th century were donated by Mrs. E. L. Sherman. Cut crystal preserve and pickle dishes, silver plated salts with blue glass liners and a pair of English tureens were also on the table. Two pair of silver plated candlesticks were also in the room.



After roaming through the rooms, visitors chased the chill of the day with a drink of hot apple cider served with ginger snaps.”

LIVING HISTORY DAY

Living history day, under the leadership of David Serxner, began its 2017-2018 school year program with the 4th graders from West Bertie Elementary on October 3rd. The students were shown demonstrations of open hearth cooking by Pat Sawyer, spinning and weaving by Abbey Sutton, and butter making by Marihelen Stringham. Period games were



demonstrated by students from the Bertie Early College High School. Beekeeper Joe Hoggard brought his demonstration hive and had honey sticks from his bees. The Dismal Swamp State Park had a display about wildlife in the swamp and talked about the importance of the swamp in our ecosystem. Board member Nancy Davis helped with the tour on the second floor of the Mansion. Board member Shoshana Serxner-Merchant helped with the binding activity. West Bertie will be followed by 4th graders from Aulander Elementary, Colerain Elementary, and Windsor Elementary on October 24th, November 7th and November 14, respectively. In addition to these Bertie County Schools, we are going to host Piedmont Middle School from Charlotte, on March 20th and 23rd 2018. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with these programs, contact David at education@hopeplantation.org. Programs typically last about 2 hours.

SUMMER VISITORS

In June, July and August we had visitors from Holland, Sweden, Germany, Canada, Switzerland and Austria. In addition, visitors came from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington.

HOPE FOUNDATION, VOLUNTEER CURATOR

Andrew Ownbey at the invitation of the Hope Executive Committee, has accepted the position as Volunteer Curator for the Hope Foundation. Andrew has great knowledge about area antiques of the period of the Hope Mansion and King Bazemore House. He will help update the records in both houses and will plan events that will feature the collections we have. Andrew lives in Merry Hill and has been studying and collecting regional antiques for years. He has already been thinking about the Ives Lectures featuring blanket chests of the area. The theme will be entitled " Hope Chest "

FRIENDS OF HOPE

Mrs. William F. Andrews
Dr. Larry Auld
Mrs. Betsy (*Donald*) Buford
Mr. & Mrs. Robert (*Suzanne*) Bizzell
Mrs. Kathy (*Donald*) Blackwelder
Mr. Robert S. Brunk
Miss Anna Burgwyn
Miss Margaret Burgwyn
Ms. Myrtle (Mitzi) Clawson
The Rev. Dr. Lillian Capehart
Mr. Todd Farrand
Mrs. Anne Faircloth
Ms. Janice Faulkner
Mr. John B. Gillam (Margaret)
Ms. Helen Holt
Mr. John Harmon
Mr. Al Honeycutt
Mr. Wayland Jenkins, Jr.
Mr. Joseph T. Jenkins
Mrs. Frances Jilcott
Dr. Rupert Jilcott
Mr. Matt Johnston
Mrs. Alice E. Jones
Mrs. De Hughes LeRoy
Mr. Carroll H. Leggett
Mr. William I. Long
Dr. John W. Moses, Jr.
Dr. Karen Ray & Dr. John Hill

Mr. Reid Thomas (Julie)
Mrs. Sarah Gayle Randolph
Dr. Horace Ward (Barbara)
Mrs. Marsha Warren (David)
Mr. E. Randolph White, Jr. (Lynn)
Mr. Maury York
Mr. John C.P. Tyler
Mr. Samuel Bobbitt Dixon
Mrs. Clara B. Guess
Mr. John M. Tayloe
Mr. Phil Hodges
Mrs. Marian C. Perry

FRIENDS OF HOPE CONSULTANTS

Mr. William B. Wartman, III
Mr. Robert G. Anthony

FRIENDS OF HOPE LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. E. Osborne Ayscue
Mr. Z. Brian Haislip
Mrs. Sarah Manning Pope



Join us for a carriage ride at the Historic Hope Christmas Open House – December 3 from 1 to 5 p.m.

THIRD ANNUAL HAUNTED FOREST



The 3rd Annual Haunted Forest on Friday and Saturday nights, October 27th and 28th was a huge success. The weather was perfect each night. On Friday night, approximately 100 children under 12 years of age wandered down a portion of the haunted trail in Hope Forest. They saw ghosts, witches, skeletons and crazed clowns. They enjoyed various games set up in the Heritage Center and were given toys, candies and prizes for the best costumes. Saturday night was fright night. Over 200 teenagers and adults walked through Hope Forest and were confronted with chainsaw murderers, musket fire, and a hoard of ghouls of various sorts that jumped out to scare them. Many of the teenagers walked down the trail two or more times. Hot dogs, drinks, chips and various candies were sold each night. Rhonda Forsythe, one of our docents, initiated this event three years ago and she and her friends have spent many hours each year staging it. They were helped by Bobby Williams, his wife Joyce, the staff at Hope, Jennifer Smyth, Patti Urquhart, Ryan Williams and Chris Buzzard. They are already planning for next year.



PICTURES FROM INDIAN WOODS CONFERENCE



Drummers, Shakers, and Chanters Preparing for the Dancing.



Traditional Corn Shucking.

If you wish to receive this newsletter by email let Hope know at info@hopeplantation.org. This will save Hope from having to mail and print the newsletter. Contributions to the newsletter should be emailed to Joe Cooper at revjcooper@aol.com.



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