

“Written in Stone”

A Newsletter of Historic Hope, Windsor, North Carolina

Winter 2019 – Co-Editors: Joe Cooper, Phyllis Broughton



From the President – Turner Sutton



I hope everyone had a very good Christmas. This was the 46th year that the mansion has been open to the public at Christmas. It was beautifully decorated. We had at least 350 people, most who were from out-of-town/county. Many thanks to all of the decorators, docents, reenactors, and Hope staff who worked to make it a



special day. The carriage rides are very popular and help set our open house apart from most other historic properties.

This fall, as part of the Town of Windsor’s 250th anniversary celebration, we co-sponsored an historic homes tour. Most of the 125 registrants were from out-of-town. They toured the King-Bazemore house and mansion and then ate soup and sandwiches, prepared by members of the Board, before going to Windsor and touring 9 homes, 4 churches and 3 museums. Pictures of the homes on tour, as well as other historic properties in and near Windsor, are on display in the atrium of the Heritage Center.



Rev. Joe Cooper serving soup at the anniversary celebration.

We continue to attract visitors from throughout the United States and many foreign countries. We had visitors from 39 states and Ghana, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Canada, Australia, Germany, South Africa, France, and Slovakia.

We are facing a major challenge this year. The roof on the mansion has been deteriorating for several year and this fall when the remnants of hurricanes Florence

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and Michael came through Bertie County, we lost shingles in several places. These have been temporarily repaired but we need a new roof as soon as possible before we have a damaging leak. We would like to replace it with cedar shakes similar to those on the mansion, but frankly they have become too expensive. We will likely replace the shakes currently on the roof with a metal roof of some sort. These are used at many other historic properties and last for 40-50 years plus. Thanks to each of you who contributed to our annual giving which was designated for the replacement of the roof on the mansion.

We were saddened to learn of the death of two of our lifetime directors, Becky Carter and Nancy Rascoe. Becky was one of our founders, and served as the treasurer of the Foundation for 27 years. She was co-chairman of the 1984 ball and worked on many projects for Hope. Nancy chaired the 1988 ball and worked on many projects and programs.

We have several programs scheduled for the late winter/spring. The African American History month program will be held on February 16th and the Ives Lecture on February 23rd. Dr. Benjamin Speller has spearheaded the African American History day program from its inception and always has excellent and informative speakers. The Ives Lecture this year will focus on an overview of our decorative arts collection with a focus on our unequalled collection of Roanoke River valley furniture. After a one-year absence, we will offer a Woman’s Month program on March 16th. The theme of this year’s program will be the education of Native Americans, African Americans, and European Settlers in the early 19th century.

The highlight of the spring will be the Hope Ball, held on Friday, April 5th. We were delighted that Mr. and Mrs. John Trent agreed to host this year’s ball. You can find more information on the ball in this newsletter.

I wish each of you a happy new year.

Turner

The Elizabeth Stevenson 2019 Ives Lectures
“What’s What in the Hope Collection”
by Andrew Ownbey

An overview of the important decorative arts collection of the Historic Hope Foundation.

Location: Heritage Center

Date: Saturday, February 23

Time: 9:30 a.m. Refreshments

Program: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Registration - \$40

Lunch Provided



Since 1965, the Historic Hope Foundation has worked diligently to assemble what has become a remarkable and important collection of 18th and 19th-century decorative arts. The collection boasts some incredible examples of Northeastern North Carolina furniture from both centuries, including multiple examples of furniture made by the same hands that built Governor Stone’s mansion.

These include several pieces by the Seay, Sharrock and Wilkes Cabinet shops located within 20 miles of Hope Plantation in Bertie and Northampton Counties.

Not only are these locally produced pieces, but they are among the finest examples of southern furniture known, and many have been researched, documented, and published by numerous authors and institutions.



Dozens of pieces of furniture, textiles, and other decorative arts and utilitarian antiquities have been documented by both the Museum of Southern

Decorative Arts

and Colonial Williamsburg and are listed in their research files. Since the collection started, scholars and historians have used these pieces to advance the understanding of early trades in the area, and some of our pieces held vital clues in the identification of the “W H Cabinetmaker,” along with other groups of cabinetmakers in the Roanoke River Basin.



The 2019 Ives Lecture will bring back to light these iconic pieces of southern decorative arts and will focus mostly on the extensive collection of regional furniture. This collection deserves to be in the spotlight, and lately, it has not gotten its due recognition. We are fortunate to have one of the most

incredible collections of southern decorative arts outside of MESDA and Colonial Williamsburg, and as Volunteer Curator, one of Andrew Ownbey’s objectives is to put this collection back in the national spotlight where it belongs.

We would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in learning about the Hope Collection to join us for this event.

The day will begin with refreshments at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Ives Lecture, hosted by Andrew Ownbey. Lunch will be served at noon, and the event will conclude with a tour and open discussion of the collection after lunch.

RSVP: Contact info@hopeplantation.org or call 252-794-3140 for more information and to make program reservations.

The Challenge and Magic of a History Day Experience CB Guess



A Living History Day at Historic Hope Plantation is a wonderful opportunity for young people to step back in time and experience what life was like long ago. Students tour the mansion and learn about rural life in eastern North Carolina and the South in the late 18th and early 19th century. I am the Volunteer for Programming and Education and I help plan and coordinate the school tours.

Although I have never lived in Windsor, it has always been my “home” because both of my parents, Mack and Clara Bell, were born here. My father was in the foreign service and I grew up in South America. I have a very specific memory about Hope. We were on home leave in the winter of 1967 after living in Santiago, Chile for five years, and we were visiting with our grandparents in Windsor. Jack and Margaret Tyler took our family to see the house. It was an overcast, cold and windy day. We rode over a field to get to the house. My older sister has a vivid visual memory of how the house looked back then. I just remember that it looked old and a little sad. However, I have a very strong sound memory of the wind blowing through the broken windows. At the time, I was around the age of

some of the children who come for the Living History Day school tours.

Both of my parents were interested in the restoration and promotion of Hope for as long as I can remember even though we were not living here. They were actively involved after they retired and moved back to Windsor in 1986. After my mother died in 2014, I joined the Friends of Hope. In February 2018 Turner Sutton asked if I would be interested in serving as the Volunteer for Programming and Education. As a retired elementary school teacher, I was excited to have an opportunity to use my teaching experience and to be able to spend time with children without having to write lesson plans or grade papers!

In March 2018 I came for a Living History Day when a large group of middle school students from Charlotte visited Hope. I followed one group of students as they went through the house and did all the other activities. Then, in April I helped coordinate the tour for a group of 8th grade students from Hertford County. A kindergarten group from Bethel School in Greenville came in May. On two different days in August we had two groups from the Children’s World Learning Center in Greenville.



When students arrive for a tour, they are divided into two groups. One group tours the mansion while the other group rotates

through a variety of volunteer-led activities that help the students learn about life in the 1800s. Then the groups switch. A docent is on each floor of the mansion to tell the students about the house. Younger students receive a *Scavenger Hunt and Activity Book* that has pictures of artifacts in the house and fun activities for them to do later. For example, students see the ladder in the library. In the booklet there is a photograph of the ladder and on the opposite page there is an activity where the student draws lines to

connect book covers to matching titles. One of the activities for older children is to use a plastic needle and string to “bind a book” titled *Life on a Nineteenth Century Plantation*. In this book there is a page that describes Education in 19th century North Carolina. On the opposite page there is a picture of Governor



Hope Plantation 1800

Life at a Federal Plantation

Stone’s Library and several facts are listed, including that his library contained over 1,400 books! Students take this book with them when they leave.

There are a variety of volunteer-led activities. Students learn about spinning and how clothes were made long ago, they play games like ones played by children in the 1800s, they practice quill writing, and they make butter by shaking a jar of heavy cream until it becomes butter. Students learn about bees and how important they are for helping plants grow. They also learn about animals found in the region. Students visit the Museum Room and the Three Cultures Room.

With the help of Pat Mulray, I have created a list of schools in the surrounding counties. A flyer describing Living History Day tours has been sent to elementary and middle schools in all these counties. Several schools have already scheduled tours and we are hoping to hear from more schools in the coming months.

I really enjoy talking with the children, listening to their questions about Hope and helping them find the answers in their books. At the end of the tour I like to ask them what they liked best.

A challenge of the Living History Day program is finding ways to reach out to the schools in the area and encouraging them to schedule tours. The magic comes from watching the children experience history and

hearing them ask questions about what they see and tell about their favorite parts of the tour!



A Tribute to Bobby

Bobby Williams our caretaker and site administrator for the past seven years will be retiring in early February. Bobby came to Hope in 2012 having worked as a Production Manager of United Piece Dye Works in Edenton and as manager of the wastewater treatment plantation for the City of Edenton. We quickly learned that Bobby could do almost do anything. In addition to his routine caretaker duties, Bobby could do almost anything from repairing our tractor and mowers, to installing a security system in the mansion and Heritage Center to working on our computers. He saved us many thousands of dollars.

Moreover, we learned that Bobby had very good management skills and in 2014 was given the position of Site Administrator. As Site Administrator he was responsible for all of the office duties – paying bills, tracking income from gifts, memberships etc., and managing our memberships. He was involved in hiring and training new docents, scheduling the docents, and managing our yard workers. Additionally, he was always willing to give tours to visitors who showed up when we were otherwise closed.

Bobby was always looking at ways to save money and help Hope make money. He was the driving force behind our first yard sale and flea market, which is now an annual event. And, he and a former docent, Rhonda Forsythe, began our harvest festival which has been very successful. He was very good at finding items online that ranged from office equipment to chairs at much reduced prices.

Perhaps most importantly, Bobby had excellent people skills and worked well with the staff and public. He was the face of Hope when someone called or came by

to schedule weddings and other events and worked with them to ensure we were prepared for the event.

Bobby's wife Joyce was by his side every time needed and assisted in many events.

We all wish Bobby and Joyce well.

26th ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CELEBRATION

"Bertie County African Americans Find Freedom"

Roanoke Chowan Heritage Center
Hope House Road, Windsor North Carolina

info@hopeplantation.org

Saturday, February 16, 2019

9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Free and Open to Public

9:30 am – 10:00 am

REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

10:00 am – 11:00 am

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Turner Bond Sutton, President, Historic Hope Foundation
Dr. Benjamin F. Speller, Jr., Vice President, Historic Hope Foundation



"Finding Freedom of Religion"

The Church of God in Christ was founded in Arkansas by Charles Harrison Manson in 1907. It is the largest black Pentecostal denomination in the United States. Under the leadership, of Aaron Bazemore, the Cedar Folk Church was established in 1907 as the first Church of God in Christ congregation in North Carolina. Many local church members in North Carolina experienced great suffering, for Pentecostal groups were often considered dangerous outsiders by mainline Christian churches (both black and white).

Ministers of the Church of God in Christ were sometimes beaten, threatened, and jailed. Roseva Gilliam and Dr. Cary L. Cordon, Pastor, Victory Temple Church of God in Christ, will share the efforts of Aaron Bazemore in establishing and providing spiritual leadership for these black Pentecostal churches in Bertie and North Carolina.



11:00 am – 12:00
“Finding Freedom as a Union Civil War Soldier”

The Underground Railroad was a series of complex secret routes, churches, institutions, and privately-owned homes

that aided runaway slaves in the south in escaping to freedom. Gerald Thomas, a native of Bertie County, is a former congressional auditor and retired federal executive. He is the author of *Divided Allegiance: Bertie During the Civil War*, and *Bertie in Blue: Experience of Bertie’s Union Servicemen during the Civil War*. He co-authored “Massacred at Plymouth: April 20, 1864” *North Carolina Historical Review*, April 1995, with Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr. He will share what his research revealed about how the black slaves in Bertie County used the Underground Railroad during the Civil War to join the Union Regiments and fight for their freedom.

12 pm – 1 pm
SPECIAL FEATURE
LUNCH BUFFET \$15

Please register for lunch by February 11, 2019

To register for lunch or for more information call 252-794-3140 or email info@hopeplantation.org

Now an annual part of this event, a lunch buffet is prepared and offered as a fundraiser for educational program operations at Hope by members of the Board of Directors. The menu may include a variety of soups, sandwiches, salads, and other treats.



Women’s History Program
Saturday, March 16, 2019
Roanoke Chowan Heritage Center
8:30 a.m.
Registration - \$40
Includes Lunch

Historic Hope Plantation will be hosting its second Women's History Program Saturday, March 16, 2019, at the Roanoke Chowan Heritage Center on the Hope campus. The theme for this year's program is women and education in Federal North Carolina. Speakers include Angela Thorpe, Acting Director of the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission and Dr. Angela Thompson, Associate Professor of History at East Carolina University. Hope will feature an exhibit of its collection of school girl samplers from NE NC. The program begins at 8:30 and includes lunch and tours of the historic Hope Mansion and King Bazemore House. Cost for the program is \$40.

RSVP: Contact info@hopeplantation.org or call 252-794-3140 for more information and to make program reservations.



The Hope Ball for 2019

This year the Hope Ball will be on Friday, April 5, in the Roanoke Chowan Heritage Center at Hope. Mr. and Mrs. John Trent will be the hosts. Plans will include champagne at the mansion at 6 o'clock followed by cocktails at the center with music by Mr. Tunes. The food will be provided by “Southern

Delights.” At 8 o’clock the award winning “Irresistible Groove Band” will offer the dance music. The cost is \$100 per person and \$180 for a couple. The dress this year is cocktail attire.



“Irresistible Groove Band”

If you know persons who would like to be invited, call Hope at 252-794-3140. If you want to prepay to reserve a table for eight the cost is \$1000 plus two free tickets. Please call Hope for details. The deadline for the event is March 18, 2019. We will be asking for sponsors to help pay for the expenses for the event.

This is Hope’s major fundraiser for the year.



**“Hope for Tomorrow”
Capital Campaign**

Historic Hope Foundation, Inc. continues its \$1,000,000 capital campaign called “Hope for Tomorrow.” The primary goal of this campaign is to raise funds to repair and maintain the David Stone Mansion and the King Bazemore House. The roofs on both houses need to be replaced and interior repairs are needed as a result of the roof leaks. We are also in desperate need of repainting the exteriors of both houses. The primary goal of this campaign is to raise funds to repair and maintain the David Stone Mansion and the King Bazemore House.

If you wish to contribute, please contact Hope Plantation at **252-794-3140** or email info@hopeplantation.org or the website at www.hopeplantation.org/.



**Hope Plantation – Yard Sale
May 4, 2019**

If you have items to contribute for the Yard Sale, please call 252-794-3140 or email info@hopeplantation.org

***Proceeds go to “Hope for Tomorrow”
Capital Campaign***

Any items you would like to donate would be greatly appreciated.



Upcoming Events!

- African American History Day ...February 16**
- Ives Lecture.....February 23**
- Woman’s Month Program.....March 16**
- Hope Ball.....April 5**
- Yard Sale.....May 4**
- Reenactment/Living History Day...June 22**

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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