



The 10th Family History and Genealogy Fair
“The Colonial Origins of Free People of Color in a Racist Culture”
Saturday, July 31, 2021

	Roanoke Chowan Heritage Center Hope House Road Windsor, North Carolina	 MUSEUM OF THE ALBEMARLE <i>History Happens Here</i>
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The purpose of the program is to discuss the diverse origins of families in Bertie County North Carolina from the late 16th century to their current genealogical connections throughout America.

“The program is being recorded and will be available on YouTube”

ADVANCED CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED
Call 252-794-3140 OR e-mail info@hopeplantation.org

9:15AM – 9:45AM
ON-SITE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM
INTRODUCTIONS

10:00 AM - 10:45 AM
“Exploring Free People of Color in North Carolina”



Warren E. Milteer, Jr. will provide a brief survey of life for free people of color in North Carolina. Milteer will discuss the origins of free people of color and their daily experiences. The presentation will highlight both the successes and challenges faced by free people of color. Dr. Milteer received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is currently an Assistant Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He received the R. D.W. Conner Award for his article, “Life in a Dismal Swamp Community: Free People of Color in Pre-Civil War Gates County, North Carolina,” published 2014 in the North Carolina Historical Review.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

“White at All Costs: The Descendants of Solomon Bunch, Free Person of Color”



John M. Bunch will present the story of Solomon Bunch. Born in Bertie County in 1785, he was the son of Jeremiah Bunch, Jr., a free Mulatto, born about 1745. With a collection of carpenter’s tools inherited from his father, Solomon left Bertie County in the early 19th century and settled in Maury County, Tennessee, following a similar route as other Bertie-natives of the time. Bunch will focus on Solomon’s decision to pass as white in a southern society in which “blackness” was vilified. He will tell the story of the dark secret of Solomon’s descendants that was passed from generation to generation. Solomon was a slave owner in Tennessee, as was his son. Bunch will attempt to take an unflinching look at why and how such decisions were made, and the impact that a seemingly conflicted rationale might have on a family pretending to be white. Bunch has been a researcher of his family’s history since he was a teenager. He is a data analytics trainer and consultant and received a PhD from the University of South Florida. He lives in Tampa, Florida.

LUNCH BUFFET 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM \$15.00

Please register for lunch by July 26th

Call 252-794-3140 or e-mail info@hopeplantation.org

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM \$15.00

“Tour of the Hope Mansion and King-Bazemore House”

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM \$15.00

“Tour of the Hope Mansion and King-Bazemore House”

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

The Bunch family of farmers and house carpenters (fl. 1780s-1860)
Roanoke Chowan Heritage Center
Great Hall