

28th ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

“Free People of Color and Enslaved Artisans in Bertie County”



Roanoke Chowan Heritage Center
Hope House Road
Windsor North Carolina
info@hopeplantation.org
Saturday, February 26, 2022
9:30 am – 1:00 pm
Free and Open to Public



9:30 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

10:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.

“The Bunch Family Builders: Jeremiah Bunch and other Artisans”

Dr. Benjamin Speller



The Bunch family of farmers and house carpenters (fl. 1780s-1860) lived and worked in the plantation communities of Bertie County for at least three generations. The family is notable for its continuity in the trade as well as for the combination of farming and a building trade—a common practice in a rural society. Despite their long involvement in the trade, only six houses are attributed to the Bunch family—all based on similarities with the home of Jeremiah Bunch III, which he signed “J.B. 1806.” They all feature handsome Federal woodwork with distinctive chair rails, elaborate mantels, and windows like the one on the Craig House. Further research and fieldwork may reveal more about the family’s work and accomplishments.

11:00 a.m. — 12:00 Noon

“Charles Peele: Enslaved Carpenter”

Ollie Peele Bond and Colleen Peele McGlone



Furniture making in northeastern North Carolina during the 19th century was an honored trade in which African Americans played a vital role. Bertie County’s Charles Peele, known as “Carpenter Charles,” excelled as a craftsman who created quality pieces of furniture. This enslaved craftsman lived and worked on Oaklana Plantation in western Bertie. His furniture dates to the 1830s. Little is known about Charles Peele’s training but many cabinet makers operated in Bertie County who could have instructed him in woodworking. **Mrs. Ollie Bond** and **Mrs. Colleen McGlone**, Peele descendants, will share biographical information about his relationship to persons living in surrounding counties.

12:00 Noon — 1:00 p.m.

SPECIAL FEATURE

LUNCH BUFFET \$15.00

Please register for lunch by February 21, 2022

To register for lunch or for more information

Call [\(252\) 794-3140](tel:2527943140) or email info@hopeplantation.org