

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

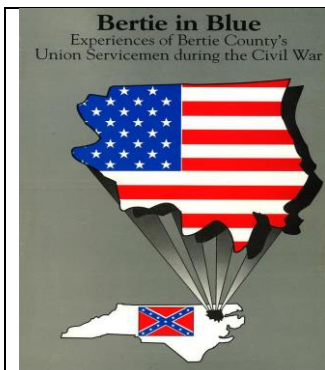
"Finding Freedom of Religion"



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.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

SPECIAL FEATURE

LUNCH BUFFET \$15.00

Please register for lunch by February 11, 2019

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.

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