

“Written in Stone”

A Newsletter of Historic Hope, Windsor, North Carolina

Winter 2020 – Co-Editors: Joe Cooper, Phyllis Broughton

From the President – Turner Sutton



I hope each of you had a great holiday season. Christmas open house at Hope was the most successful ever. Approximately 600 people attended, at least three-fourths

from outside of the county. The mansion, King-Bazemore house, and Heritage Center were beautifully decorated.



Joe Cooper preparing Hope for Open House!

There is no way recognize and thank everyone who helped in preparing for the open house. Not only did the Hope staff and members of the Board of Directors help, but many volunteers participated as well. Others who contributed

include Towne Bank who paid for the garland used to decorate the mansion, King-Bazemore house, and Heritage Center. I want to especially thank the owners of the horses, carriages, and wagons. They are very generous with their time every year and help make Christmas open house at Hope special. This year they were busy from the entire time we were open.

Christmas open house is only one of the events we host each year. I also want to thank the staff, Board members, and others who worked throughout the year with these events. There is a lot of work involved in hosting events which ranges from registration, setting up and decorating tables, providing meals, cleaning up and washing dishes etc. We could not provide quality programs without their help and I am indebted to them.

February 17th is Governor Stone’s 250th birthday. We are going to plan events through the year to recognize his 250th birthday. His birthday will be celebrated by a champagne reception for members in the mansion on February 15th. Each of you should have received an invitation. If you didn’t please let me know.

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We plan to rearrange some of the rooms in the mansion this winter under the direction of Andrew Ownbey, our volunteer curator. He has studied similar houses and has concluded that original arrangement of the rooms made in the early 1970s is more accurate than the current arrangement. The rearrangement will be completed in time for Stone's 250th birthday celebration.

Last year we put a new roof on the mansion. We have several projects planned for this year: a new roof on the dairy, repair of lights in the yard of the mansion and in the parking lot of the Heritage Center, and repair of the mantel in the Governor's bedroom. Many thanks to each of you who contributed to our annual giving and otherwise to help us make these repairs.

We have a number of events scheduled for this year, some of which are described below. Last year we hosted a living history day which was free to the public. About 130 people attended. They were treated to demonstrations of musket and cannon fire, as well as demonstrations of various period crafts. We are beginning to make plans for a similar program this spring/summer.

Our herb, flower and fiber gardens have received a lot of attention from visitors and on Facebook. Abbey Sutton, our gardener, has plans to add a period vegetable garden this spring. Each garden has an informative brochure in a display holder located nearby. Though they are open year-around, May – August is the best time to see the flowers and vegetables. Many varieties of bulbs were planted last fall and should be blooming over the next few months.

I wish all of you a happy and healthy new year.

Turner

Southern Decorative Arts Collection Andrew Ownbey

It is well known that Hope Plantation has the finest collection of southern decorative arts found in any house museum in the south. With that opportunity and blessing comes much responsibility.



One part of that responsibility is how we display the collection so visitors can both enjoy and learn

from it. We have an unusual opportunity to tell the story of the local craftsman working to build one of the finest houses in North Carolina and teach how some of the same craftsmen created a number of furnishings now on display in that house. Not only are they locally made but they, like the house, are some of the finest made in the state.



The collections committee has decided to take a step back and re-examine how we interpret the room usage in the house so we can also carry out another of those responsibilities; to be historically accurate. We have decided to use evidence found not only in written records but also everything from paint analysis of the mansion itself to other known examples of related houses that have had extensive research performed for the same purpose.

One thing we have to keep in mind is that our furniture collection does not necessarily reflect

that of David Stone's in the period, but rather is a collection of great local furnishings worthy of display in the house. With that understanding, we have to use what is at our disposal and display it in the house as historically accurate as possible, which is what we will be doing over the next few weeks.

We invite all of our members to join us in celebrating David Stone's 250th birthday and get the first opportunity to see the mansion in this new arrangement.

So Much To Do, So Little Time

Volunteers at Hope Plantation have really made a difference this year keeping the houses show ready, the grounds neat, and the gardens blooming!



Clockwise: Turner Bond Sutton, Michael Adams (kneeling), Ed Rawls (in the hat), Ian Sutton (You can just see his head.), and Jarette Hurry (red shirt). Jarette is the Bertie County Extension Agent and one of the advisors for the gardens. They are working in the Fiber & Dye Garden installing raised beds in the area reserved for vegetable dye plants. The lumber was provided by Michael Adams and they were built by Michael as well.

Volunteers are everywhere, planning, setting up and cooking for events, but more volunteers are always needed. If you would like to join in and help make a difference please contact our volunteer coordinator, Abbey Sutton at fiberanddye@hopeplantation.org or 252-794-3428.

Weaving Our Threads Together

Great things are happening in our fiber arts area. The barn loom housed in the King-Bazemore house has been refurbished and is once again weaving! The counterbalance



loom that has been housed in storage has been relocated to the balcony area of the Heritage Center and is in the process of being refurbished for use in classes and demonstrations. A great walking spinning wheel originally produced in Bertie County has been donated by the Becky Carter family and will soon be in production again. Small tapelooms have been donated by Abbey Sutton and have been used for teaching weaving classes and for school tour demonstrations. The children have really enjoyed weaving and there are some really talented future fiber artists among them. Michael Adams has constructed and donated flax processing tools and we hope to be able to start demonstrations of flax processing this coming year with the flax grown in our Fiber and Dye Garden. Spinning and weaving demonstrations have become a regular part of our Friday tours with some visitors coming expressly for the demonstrations.

Artists and Craftsmen

An artists and craftsmen program for the gift shop was begun in November and has been quite successful. The program provides an opportunity for local artists and craftsmen to sell their wares in the Heritage Center gift shop on commission to benefit Hope Plantation. Vendors need prior approval before entering the program. If you or someone you know would like to become a vendor in our gift shop, please contact Abbey Sutton at fiberanddye@hopeplantation.org or 252-794-3428. A variety of unique hand created items are available. Please stop in and take a look in our lovely updated gift shop!

Staff news

Mike Spruill, our Office Manager, had knee replacement surgery on January 6th. He is doing very well, and we, and Turner in particular, are looking forward to his return. In his absence, one of our docents will be in the office from 10am to 2pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to respond to phone messages, answer the phone, perform various clerical duties, and, as time permits, clean the mansion.

Office hours

We have begun our winter office/tour hours. We are closed for tours except by appointment until March 21st when we will be open weekends until April 12th. On April 12th we will open Wednesday-Sunday until Memorial Day when we will be open 7 days a week until Labor Day.

Board News

Three new Board members have joined us in the past year. Dr. Tonya Blair, Dr. Minnie Outlaw and Wil Hoggard. Dr. Blair has her Phd in American history and is an Adjunct Instructor of

history at Elizabeth City State University. She has been involved in a number of regional history projects and serves on the board of Directors at Somerset Plantation. Dr. Outlaw is a retired educator, was Director of Career & Technical Education/Adult Education/Education Specialist and serves as the President of the Bertie County Retired School Personnel Association. Wil Hoggard is no stranger to Hope and has previously served on the Board. He has his masters in history from East Carolina University and worked in various historic programs in Edenton.

Father Aaron Weissman and Keith and Pat Sawyer retired from the Board. Father Weisman served on the Board for a little over a year and was just beginning to become involved in programming when the Church transferred him to an administrative position in Ohio. Pat and Keith have been involved in many activities at Hope. Pat has cooked in the outdoor kitchen at the mansion for many events and we look forward to her continuing to volunteer to cook for various events.

Drs. Speller and Smallwood Recognized by Chowan University

This fall, Chowan University gave Dr. Speller, our Vice-President, the Minnie Wood Perkins Humanitarian Award in recognition of his vital role in the preservation of African American history and culture in North Carolina. And, Dr. Arwin Smallwood, a member of the Friends of Hope Committee, was the guest speaker of the Reverend George T. and Luvenia B. Rouson Memorial Lecture.

27th Annual African American Celebration

Dr. Benjamin Speller began this program 27 years ago. He puts a lot of time and his resources into assembling informative programs every year. This year, Historic Hope will celebrate African American History Month by a program on February 1st entitled "The Roanoke River Underground Railroad History in Bertie County." The program will feature Carol Shields, Executive Director of Roanoke River Partners, and Rose Bailey, US Fish and Wildlife Service, who will talk on "The Roanoke River Underground Railroad Trail," and Angela Thorp, Director of the NC African American Commission, who will talk on "The Bondswoman's Narrative, by Hannah Crafts, a Bertie County Slave." The program will begin in the Heritage Center with a continental breakfast at 9:30 AM and end at noon. There is no charge. Afterwards, lunch will be available at the Festival of Soups for \$15.



Festival of Soups

The Festival of Soups has become part of the tradition of celebrating our African American Celebration program.

This is the fourth year of this event. Soup will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Heritage Center. The lunch includes 12 soups, hot corn muffins, and desserts.

Tickets are \$15 and include two bowls of soup, muffins, and a dessert choice. You can eat in or take out.

The lunch buffet is prepared and offered as a fundraiser by members of the Board of Directors

and proceeds will be going towards the ongoing maintenance of the King-Bazemore House at Historic Hope Plantation.

Please call the Hope Foundation at 252-794-3140 by Monday, January 27, to make your reservation.

Upcoming Events

February 1 – African American History Month Program

February 1 – Festival of Soups

February 15 David Stone's 250th Birthday celebration in the newly arranged Mansion.



March – Woman's History Month Program

April 25 – Friends of Hope

May 2 – Annual Yard Sale

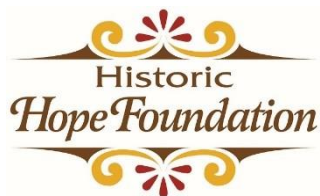


Nayland Collier playing at the Christmas Open House!

Visit our online store at Hope Plantations for titles for local and regional courts records, genealogies, and histories: <http://www.hopeplantation.org/shop/>

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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