



SANDHILLS SANKOFA NEWS

The Official Newsletter of Sandhills Family Heritage Association

Maggie Naomi Douglas



Photo by Sandhills Family Heritage Association

**Founder of the Seminole Home for Black Children in
Broadway, NC - 1955**

A mother figure to hundreds of children

A retired school teacher of 43 years

A highly respected community servant

A spiritual counselor to many

A humanitarian and Role Model

Ms. Douglas was honored and appointed SFHA Queen Mother in 2007

SANDHILLS FAMILY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION HONOREE 2007

Ms. Maggie Naomi Douglas

Deceased

Maggie Naomi Douglas was born in Lillington, NC, grew up in Kipling and lived in Harnett County her entire life and says she will die in Harnett County. She was a school teacher for 43 years and taught every subject from first through eight grades. In June 1980, Mrs. Douglas retired from her teaching career but she remained active in her church ministry and community.

In 1955, Mrs. Douglas and husband Euliss started the Seminole Home in Broadway, the first home of its kind in the state of North Carolina for Black children who had problems and needed strong parental guidance. The Douglasses took care of 27 children in their home without pay for their services but they did accept donations, pots, pans, and clothes from community members. Mrs. Douglas spent her life cultivating souls through teaching and prayers.



Photo by Sandhills Family Heritage Association

Here Mrs. Douglas revisits the place that was once the Seminole Home that she and her husband founded for Black children in 1955. This building was the old Rosenwald Seminole School before it was converted into the Children's Boarding Home.

The Douglas' Ten Commandments for Parents

Mrs. Douglas shared a list of Ten Commandments for Parents of the children in her care.

- Thou shalt love thy child with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy strength, but wisely, with all thy mind.
- Thou shalt think of thou child not as something belonging to thee, but as a person.
- Thou shalt regard his respect and love not as something to be demanded, but something worth earning.
- Every time thou art impatient with thy child's immaturity and blundering, thou shalt remember some of the childish adventures and mistakes which attended thine own coming of age.
- Remember that it is thy child's privilege to make a hero out of thee, and take thou thoughts to be proper ones.
- Remember also that thy example is more eloquent than thy fault-finding and moralizing.
- Thou shalt strive to be a signpost on the highway of life rather than a rut out of which the wheel cannot turn.
- Thou shalt help thy child to see beauty, and to practice kindness, to love truth, and to live in friendship
- Thou shalt teach thy child to stand on his own feet and fight his own battles.
- Thou shalt make thou dwelling a real home, a haven of happiness for thyself, thy children, thy friends and thy children's friends.

Betty Brinkley McMillan

1935-2017

Recipient of NC's Highest Civilian Award



Photos by Sandhills Family Heritage Association

Recipient of NC Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award - 1996

First African American female President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of NC—1996-1997

Lifetime member of Disabled American Veterans

Founding Member and Board Chair of SFHA 2001— 2011

Recipient of SFHA Servant Leadership Award—2013

Betty was a passionate gardener and an advocate for preserving family land to benefit future generations. She said "If you own a piece of land, you will always have a place to sleep and grow your own food". She spent many hours working in her flower beds and loved nature and watching the humming birds and squirrels in her back yard.

Betty's father, Sam Brinkley, was one of the founding trustees of the Spring Lake Civic Center and she wanted to preserve his legacy of community building. She participated in the architect's concept design of the Center and envisioned a place where community seniors and elders could come and talk about the good old days and share their knowledge, wisdom and experiences with the younger generation.

Betty's legacy of service will continue to live through SFHA because her story is part of the organization's story. Her example of servant leadership will inspire, educate and motivate others to get engaged in community service.

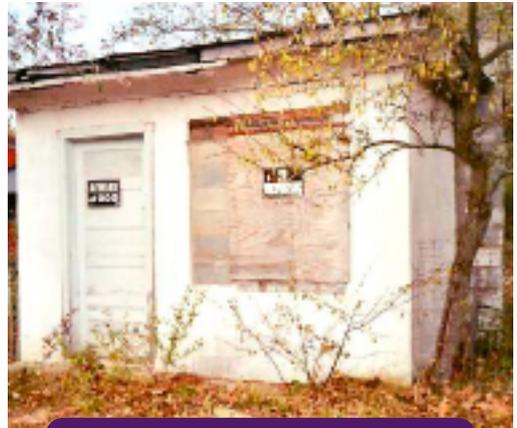
Athena Lucas Belton

1923-2011

First Black Businesswoman in Manchester/Spring Lake, NC



Athena Lucas Belton
Beautician



Belton's Beauty Shop
1955-1964



Life-long member
Bethel AME Zion
Church

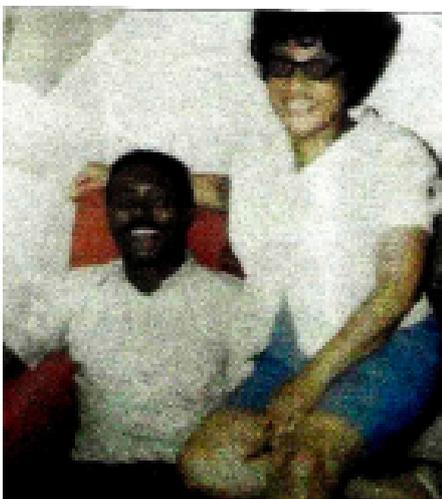


Contributor to SFHA *Healing
from the Land* book



SFHA Senior Volunteer of
the Year

Athena Lucas Belton—1923—2011
Harry Samuel Belton—1923—2000



On July 9, 1947, Athena joined in marriage to Harry S. Belton, US Army. With three children to care for, Athena applied for and received a business license to set up a beauty shop in Manchester, now known as Spring Lake, NC. When her original business license was granted, she became the first Black Female Entrepreneur in the Spring Lake area. From 1955 until 1964 she owned and operated Belton's Beauty shop.

If You Work for God by *Betty Jennings Blue*

Deceased



Betty Jennings Blue, Poet
Sanford, NC



Love Grove AME Zion Church
Sanford, NC

Go out into the vineyard and help whoever you can.

God gave you a job to do so give a helping hand.

It might be just to sweep a floor or help someone that's down.

So do your best with a smile not with a frown.

With real love you don't have to tell it everywhere you go.

If you have the love of God the love light will glow.

Go with a willing heart and do your part.

Jesus said He would always be with us, from us He will never depart.

Show Jesus that you love him. If you're not on a mission, it's time to make a start.

Betty wrote over 100 poems before she passed.



Janiya McCoy, Former President of
Sankofa Youth



Pamela Jones Marks
SFHA Food Distribution
Coordinator

High Point University: Black Cultural Awareness Club

Women's Empowerment Panel

by
Lauryn Green



I, Lauryn Green am a junior at High Point University majoring in Journalism. I am also the Vice-President of Black Cultural Awareness club on campus. On Thursday, March 31, our club held a virtual Women's Empowerment Panel, which was moderated by Dr. Erica Horhn, an English professor at HPU.

The purpose of the panel was to invite several successful and influential Black women to speak to our organization about a diverse range of topics. Some of these subjects included representation of Black women in their industries, personal challenges in the workplace, how to strike a balance between professional and personal lives, the biggest lessons or experiences that have helped each panelist elevate in her career, etc.

One of the panelists was, Ms. Ammie McRae Jenkins, who was the first African-American student to integrate High Point University in 1962; The second panelist was Mrs. Montrese Sampson, who is the Vice President of Human Resources for CBS News in Washington, D.C.; The third panelist was Monica Cox, Ph.D., who is an engineering professor at Ohio State University.

We deeply appreciate the time they took out of their day to participate in this event. It was remarkable to hear their personal experiences and inspirational to hear about their career journey.

Black Cultural Awareness club promotes awareness of Black heritage at High Point University and throughout the High Point community. Our goal is to bring students together who have a common interest in the Black culture and in particular, in its heritage. We wish to create a forum for the free expression of views on the social, economic, legal and political aspects of issues affecting the Black community and to precipitate unity among the minority Black population of High Point University. This club is not racially exclusive, therefore anyone is welcome to join.

Experiences of Black Women of Cumberland County

by

Michele Jesus Photography

Michele Falls, a Black Brazilian photographer and Cumberland County resident, explores the experiences of 13 Black American women from Cumberland County in a documentary scheduled to premiere during Spring/Summer 2022. These women come from a variety of backgrounds - educators, activists, Veterans, poets, birth workers, and spiritual guides, who contribute to the evolving Black American experience in Cumberland County. Michele explores how Black American women adapt and thrive through cultural, professional, and personal challenges. Michele says "This documentary is a love letter to myself as a child, and to my beautiful Black American baby girl."



Ammie McRae Jenkins
Activist



Angela Williams
Educator



Ashanti Bennett
Creative Peacemaker



Daphne Fuller
Therapist



Dorothy Fielder
Activist



Dr. Denise M. Payton
Educator



Dr. Val Fields Sandoval
Activist



Ethelyn Holden
Poet



Kia Anthony
Spring Lake Mayor



Shakeyla Ingram
Council Member District 2



Shatara Het Heru Bey
Birth Worker



Stacie Simfukwe
Business Owner

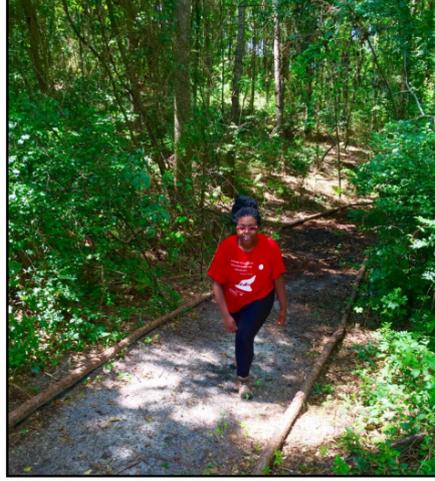


Yvonne Kinston
Council Member District 9

Taylor Mebane

SFHA Intern 2016

Sandhills Native Plant Trail Project



I am Taylor Mebane and I had the privilege of working with Sandhills Family Heritage Association as an Intern back in 2016. This experience was probably one of the most rewarding ones in my career. Mrs. Ammie Jenkins had a beautiful vision of connecting people with the land by getting stories from elders about their experience with native plants and herbal remedies. With the help of these community elders and Mrs. Jenkins, I wrote a book about Ethnobotany- plants native to sandhills, the science behind their characteristics, and the stories behind their history.

I am now in Charlotte working for Mecklenburg County's Land Use and Environmental Services Agency as an Environmental Specialist II. Thankfully, I still get to connect people to the land by doing education and outreach in Water Quality. I currently coordinate a few different volunteer programs for the county and am working on a team with public schools and different organizations to teach environmental science and the importance of environmental stewardship. I am working on ways to make these programs as equitable and accessible to communities that are often underserved and unheard from in the realm of environmental quality.

I am always thankful for the experience I had with SFHA as it was my first time working with an organization so dedicated to serving its community in a way that engages, uplifts, and educates them. It motivates me to do the same in what I do.



What does SFHA Do?

Preserve historic community assets—Spring Lake Civic Center Project
Deerfield Slave Cemetery Project

Inspire and mentor our youth — Sankofa Youth Development Program

Provide food for the hungry- Food Pantry and Mobile Food Distribution

Promote economic self-sufficiency—Financial Literacy Workshops

Improve health and well-being—Health-Wise Program

Support landowners/farmers—Sandhills Farmers Market in Spring Lake
Promised Land Project

Preserve African American history—Sandhills African American History
Collection

Share African American history and heritage—Heritage Tours & Public
Speaking

Provide income opportunities—Farmers Market and Tour Vendors

Perform historic re-enactments—Sandhills Sankofa Players

***We're Looking for Volunteers and Farmers
Market Vendors!***

"Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

*Thank
you!*

**Grantors, Sponsors & Individual Donors
for supporting SFHA Programs of H.O.P.E.!**

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NC Community Foundation
NC Healing Communities Fund
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MARCH FOOD DISTRIBUTION STATISTICS

179 

HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

 **578**

INDIVIDUALS SERVED

Get Involved
**IN YOUR
COMMUNITY**

Become a member of SFHA
for an annual fee of only
\$20

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Send Payment To:
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Click below



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