



SERVING THE SANDHILLS SINCE 2001

SANDHILLS SANKOFA NEWS

The Official Newsletter of Sandhills Family Heritage Association

JULY 2023

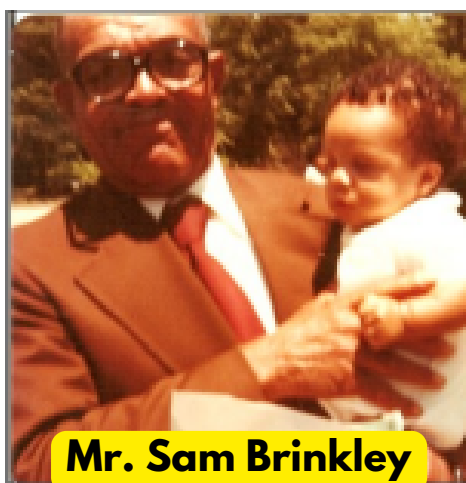
SPRING LAKE CIVIC CENTER

A place of Historical Significance

An African American resource center for over 78 years



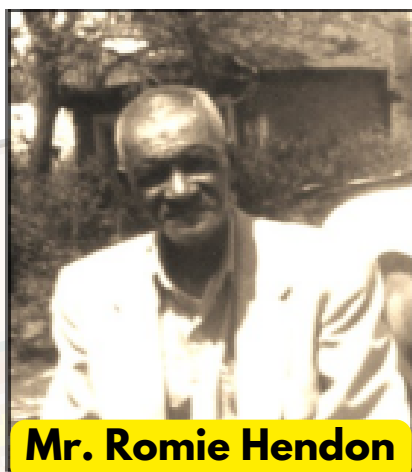
Mr. Arthur Monroe



Mr. Sam Brinkley



Mr. Ambrose Lucas

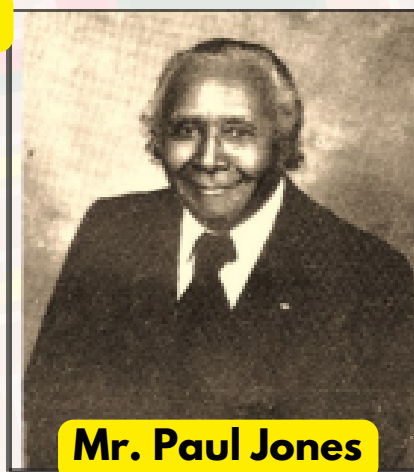


Mr. Romie Hendon

Mr. Sylvester Armstrong
Mr. David Frazier

*Thank
you!*

1950 CIVIC CENTER
TRUSTEES



Mr. Paul Jones



THE HISTORIC SPRING LAKE CIVIC CENTER RENOVATION PROJECT

By Beverly Parks

The renovation project continues to move full speed ahead. As we prepare for completion of the renovation work and for the reopening and dedication of the center, we are thoughtful of all who have helped us to reach this point. We, along with the community, have been good stewards of the gift left by the Sandhills Civic Association. The history of the Spring Lake Civic Center and the community that built and sustained it for so many years has inspired others to believe in our vision for the renovated civic center. Renovate, Restore and Reopen was our call to action. And the response was encouraging. Soon, the newly renovated building will reopen and enjoy new life as a community resource and tourism center.



Photo by Sandhills Family Heritage Association

Renovate, Restore and Reopen

The renovation plan for the Spring Lake Civic Center is tied to its historic relevance to the community and plans to apply for addition of the building to the National Register of Historic Places. The civic center will be restored to its original appearance, based on its historic use as an open assembly hall by the community.



Photo by Xpress Rendering

Sandhills African-American Heritage Center

The Sandhills African-American Heritage Center will serve as a cultural heritage tourism site, community resource center and a place for social, economic and environmental education. The building will house SFHA, our programs of H.O.P.E and our work to preserve the history and heritage of African-Americans in the NC Sandhills. The grounds of the Heritage Center - which include the Sandhills Farmers & Heritage Market, the Brush Arbor, the Native Plant Trail and a replica of the Old Plank Road - will continue to serve as a tourist stop on the African-American Heritage Trail.



IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

Our special thanks to The Honorable Marvin W. Lucas, NCGA District 42 Representative, for his unwavering support for and belief in the project to restore the civic center building. Representative Lucas was instrumental in securing the Directed Grant from the NC General Assembly to support the renovation project. We remain thankful to the previous Spring Lake Mayor Larry Dobbins and the Town of Spring Lake for their early and continued support and also to the Cumberland County staff who helped us to navigate the often confusing terrain of licensing and permits. Other early and consistent supporters are Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach Research, and Jeff Adolphsen, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Our Board of Directors has served as a dedicated team to oversee the renovation project, from replacement of the roof to vetting contractors, architects and design plans. There are many others to thank. Our final renovation report will list them and their contributions to seeing this important project through to the end.



The Honorable Marvin W. Lucas

Renovation Project Grants and Donations

SFHA Members and Individual Donors

Marion Stedman Covington Foundation

Cannon Charitable Foundation

NC Preservation - Stedman Preservation Award

Terence L. Mills Fund for North/South Carolina, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation, National Trust for Historic Preservation

The Hillsdale Fund

Historic Fayetteville Foundation, Cumberland Community Foundation

The Finish Line

The Spring Lake Civic Center renovation project is on schedule to wrap up in 2023, leaving only the work to furnish and prepare the building to house artifacts and the SFHA offices. We also will complete the landscaping and design plan for the grounds. An important part of the renovation is restoration of the community kitchen, which requires new appliances.

Please consider a financial donation to help finish this important renovation. Contact SFHA or visit our website to make a donation – www.sandhillfamilyheritage.org.



SFHA Preservation of Sacred Landscape



Photo by Nikki Witt

Mayor Kia Anthony and The Conservation Fund's Resourceful Communities Representatives Visit Spring Lake Cemetery

Let's begin by understanding the purpose of a cemetery. In simple terms, a cemetery is a place set aside for the remains of individuals who have died to be buried in a specific, identifiable space. For anyone who has had a loved one die, visits to what is considered a sacred space, allow opportunities for mourning and to show respect for the deceased.

The topic of cemeteries has taken on significant meaning for Sandhills Family Heritage Association (SFHA). In the last two years SFHA was gifted a local cemetery where enslaved people were buried who once worked on a local turpentine plantation. Stories of its existence were passed down but the exact location was unknown by later generations. Overgrowth by vegetation concealed this burial site keeping its exact location a mystery. It was finally located and grave sites were identified using aerial technology. Gifted to SFHA by the family who last owned the land, Deerfield Cemetery will be restored and its history preserved to honor and show respect for those who are resting there.

SFHA has listed the Deerfield Cemetery on the NC Site File - a permanent registry of historic sites, archaeological sites, and historic cemeteries.

Restoration will begin following many hours of research to determine who is buried and what their lives might have been like. Several steps and individuals will be a part of this major project which could take years to complete. SFHA is grateful to Resourceful Communities of The Conservation Fund for a \$6,000 grant to support the project. For more information, please visit www.sandhillsfamilyheritage.org. If you would like to be a part of this special project or have any history to share about individuals who are buried in Deerfield Cemetery, please call 910-309-2198 or email: sandhillsfamily@yahoo.com.

Deerfield Cemetery Project Chairperson is Myron Jones.



Cemetery Preservation Project



**Spring Lake Mayor Kia Anthony
Carly Autry, Spring Lake Town Clerk**



**Nikki Witt
Photojournalist Intern**



Mayor Anthony



Debra Clyde, Olivia Percoco, Myron Jones and Matthew Rouse

The Conservation Fund's Resourceful Communities Organization

Resourceful Communities creates opportunities that preserve the rural landscape, lift people out of poverty and celebrate their community partners unique cultures. SFHA has been a community partner for over 22 years.

Nikki Witt, Resourceful Communities intern, has taken and provided these photos to support SFHA restoration and preservation work. Thank you!



SFHA PROMISED LAND WILLS CLINIC

Land Loss Prevention Project

Spout Springs Presbyterian Church

Peace of Mind by Janet Brower

Many of us delay putting into place important legal documents while we are healthy and alive, thus causing our loved ones frustrations and countless hours of time when we have a sudden illness or die. NOW is the time for estate planning and advanced directives so that you can have peace of mind and your vision is known and your wishes are followed.

Sandhills Family Heritage Association recently hosted a wills clinic in partnership with Land Loss Prevention Project (LLPP) of Durham. This community outreach service allowed participants to have three important legal documents created and notarized onsite Last Will and Testament, Healthcare Power of Attorney and General Power of Attorney.



Attorneys Annette Hiatt, Christina Rice, Ashton Cooke, and Wilson Greene

Photo by Janet Brower

LLPP attorneys and local notary public, Gary Brower volunteered their time and services to eleven citizens of Cumberland, Harnett and Moore Counties to have peace of mind and walk away with smiles.

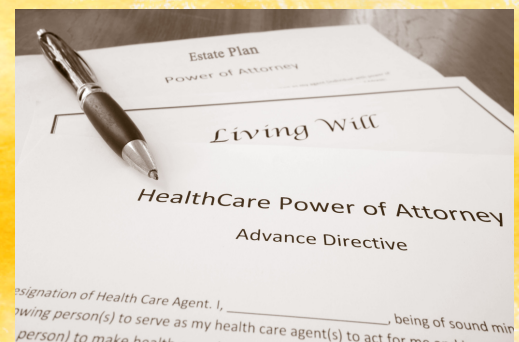
Attorneys Ashton Cooke, Wilson Greene, Christina Rice and Annette Hiatt began building rapport with clients over the phone to gather information prior to meeting in-person. A relaxed atmosphere ensued, making the process very smooth. These attorneys and Intern Ivaria Riden are commended for their knowledge and excellent professionalism. LLPP also provided to clients "Best Practices for Safekeeping of Documents" and "Administering the Estate". These 'next steps' will ensure the process is completed for all of the documents. Thank you very much to Dawn Battiste and LLPP for this important service.

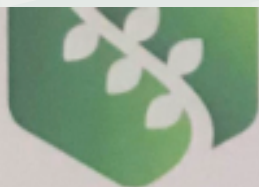
SFHA is very grateful to Spout Springs Presbyterian Church for allowing the wills clinic to be held there. Our thanks are extended to all of the volunteers whose assistance contributed to its success SS Presbyterian Church Family, SFHA Board, and Friends of SFHA. To learn more about LLPP visit <https://www.landloss.org>

Participants Comments

"I appreciate the time Attorney Annette took to complete my will. She answered all of my questions, easing my mind on how I want things to be taken care of when I'm gone."

"I recently had the opportunity to have the creation of my estate plan drawn by Attorney Wilson. Having these documents taken care of has been a great relief."





PRESERVATION OF NORTH CAROLINA LAND OWNERSHIP

LAND LOSS
PREVENTION PROJECT

Legal Assistance | Education |
Technical Assistance

The Land Loss Prevention Project is a nonprofit law firm providing comprehensive legal services, technical assistance, and community education to historically underserved farmers, landowners, and homeowners in North Carolina.

HOW CAN WE SUPPORT YOU?

A NON-EXCLUSIVE LIST OF SERVICES

- Foreclosure prevention
- Estate and farm succession planning
- Evaluating and stabilizing heir property ownership
- Addressing real property disputes
- Entity formation
- Community economic development
- Preparing farm leases
- Filing Chapter 12 and 13 bankruptcy when appropriate
- Public education, technical assistance, and training for community groups, attorneys, and advocates

"Land security is the cornerstone of family asset retention, community economic development, environmental sustainability, and a healthy and just food system."

-Savonala Horne

Executive Director,
Land Loss Prevention Project



P.O. Box 179 Durham, NC 27702



www.landloss.org



(919) 682-5969

(800) 672-5839



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Honoring Ms. Willeteen Jackson Heritage Keeper of Yard Landscape

Ms. Jackson's Passion and Connection to the Land



Photos by Ammie McRae Jenkins



MIKKI SAGER'S LEGACY IN THE SANDHILLS OF NC

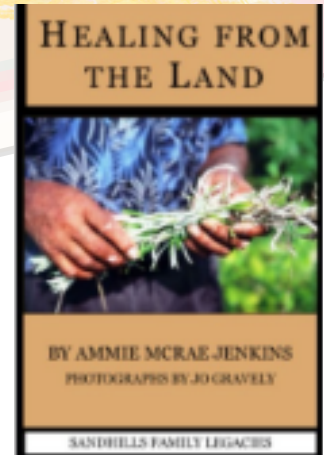
We acknowledge and appreciate your unwavering support of SFHA!



SFHA Folklore Community Traditions Award Nominated by Mikki



Land Conservation Workshops Facilitated by Mikki



Resourceful Communities grant sponsored HFTL Book



Spring Lake Civic Center Building Project Supported by Mikki



Mikki helping landowners and farmers



Thank you, Mikki Sager and The Conservation Fund's Resourceful Communities Staff for your technical and financial support! Your impact in the Sandhills communities is well-known and greatly appreciated!



Thank you!

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

Arts Council of Fayetteville and Cumberland County

Duke Energy Foundation

The Hillsdale Fund

NC General Assembly

Marion Stedman Covington Foundation

Historic Fayetteville Foundation Fund

Cumberland Community Foundation

The Conservation Fund's Resourceful Communities

The Cannon Foundation

Preservation NC

NC Healing Communities Fund

NC Community Foundation

North Carolina Humanities

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation

Mott Philanthropic

Carolyn Riddle Armstrong Foundation

PNC Bank

Fidelity Charitable Trust

**Thank You! Community Elders, Local Farmers, SFHA Project Partners, Servant Heart Volunteers,
Sustaining Donors, Friends of SFHA & Sankofa Youth!**

JULY FOOD DISTRIBUTION STATISTICS

LOVE GROVE AME ZION CHURCH FOOD PANTRY & DIAPER BANK



**FAMILIES
SERVED**

114



**INDIVIDUALS
SERVED**

165

Get Involved
**IN YOUR
COMMUNITY**

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

zelle

**Pay with
Zelle®**

Right from your banking app

Send Payment To:
910-309-2198 or
sandhillsfamilyheritage@yahoo.com

Click below



All major Debit and Credit Cards
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No PayPal Account needed.

SANDHILLS FAMILY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 754, Spring Lake, NC 28390

910-309-2198 or 919-888-0389

<https://www.sandhillsfamilyheritage.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ncsfha/>