



SERVING THE SANDHILLS SINCE 2001

JAN - FEB 2023

SANDHILLS SANKOFA NEWS

The Official Newsletter of Sandhills Family Heritage Association

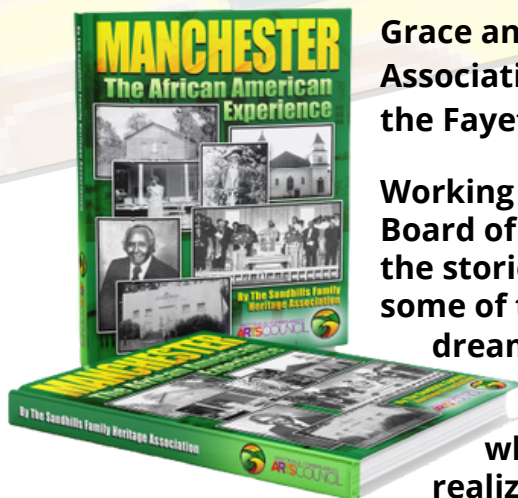
MANCHESTER THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE BOOK RELEASE



THANK YOU!

Arts Council of Fayetteville and Cumberland County

By Desi L. Campbell, Board Member



Grace and peace to you. I am excited about the Sandhills Family Heritage Association "Manchester Project". This project is made possible through the Fayetteville and Cumberland County Arts Council.

Working on this project has been a great experience for me and the Board of Directors. After studying the many documents and listening to the stories of people like Mrs. Ammie McRae Jenkins and many others of some of the rich history Manchester has, I was inspired to help make this dream a reality.

Understanding where you come from will help you to know where you're going in life. We as African Americans don't even realize the amount of history we are connected to within our own families. The ancestors left nuggets of information through names, places, oral histories, and if we are fortunate some written documentation.

Today, I challenge each of you to find out something about your family that you didn't know. Research your family lineage, write a book, create a short video, do something that will leave a lasting memory for years to come telling their stories.

We are looking forward to seeing more books from African Americans telling and sharing their story. I quote, "I am bound to them though I cannot look into their eyes or hear their voices, I honor their history. I cherish their lives. I will tell their stories. I will remember them for I am the result of the very love, struggle, sacrifice and journey of thousands." unknown



Janet Brower, SFHA Board Chair and Priscilla Burton, Treasurer, introduced the Manchester book to attendees at the February 23, 2023 African American Heritage Festival in Harnett County.



MANCHESTER PHOTO BOOK RELEASE HIGHLIGHTS AT BETHEL AME ZION CHURCH

By Desi L. Campbell, Board Member

Sandhills Family Heritage Association thanks Rev. Vincent and Michelle Long, Bethel AME Zion Church members, guests from Alabama and Durham, and all who attended the launch of our book, *Manchester: The African American Experience*.



REV. VINCENT LONG
Welcome to Bethel
& Prayer



REV. MICHELLE LONG
Remarks & Closing
Prayer

NEGRO SPIRITUALS Lift Every Voice and Sing



DR. DENISE PAYTON
("Oh Glory")



VINCENT MCNEILL
("Peace in the Valley")



MANCHESTER PHOTO BOOK RELEASE HIGHLIGHTS AT BETHEL AME ZION CHURCH

By Desi L. Campbell, Board Member



JANET BROWER
Mistress of Ceremony



PRISCILLA BURTON
Introduction of Presenters

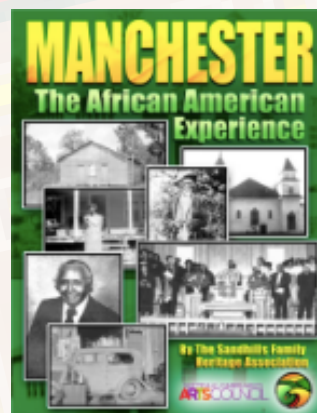


AMMIE JENKINS
Manchester Black History Book



DESI CAMPBELL
Manchester Black
History Video Viewing

From slavery to self-reliance
Manchester Homes
Family Histories
Black-owned Businesses
Churches and Cemeteries
Trail Blazers and Barrier Breakers
Politicians
Educators
Spring Lake Civic Center
Community Leaders
Military Tributes
Black Experience at Overhills Estate





MANCHESTER / SPRING LAKE & SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Working together to improve quality of life of Sandhills under-served communities for over 22 years



Honoring Community Elders



Supporting Small Farmers



Planning Civic Center Restoration



Engaging Youth in Community Projects



Presenting Free Community Education Workshops



Teaching Gardening and Gleaning Tradition



Feeding the Hungry



Hosting Regional Grassroots Convenings



Promoting Health and Wellness



Helping Landowners Create Wills and Estate Plans



Providing Community Leadership Training and Development



Celebrating Black History 365 days throughout the year



Mapping Community Assets



Sharing Local African American History through Tourism



SFHA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Rev. L.D. Dockery (aka, Zeke)



Rev. Leon Delton Dockery, Retired Educator, Author and Member of NC Writers Association, is a public speaker, community organizer, writer, youth development advocate, and long-time SFHA supporter and participant in the organization's special events.

His special interests and hobbies include mechanics and landscaping.

L.D. Dockery is one of four boys born to Thomas and Algia Dockery, on July 15, 1948. His childhood life was contained within the small community of Spout Springs, N.C., with its impact shaping his advocacy for

community— "to live and breathe community", mathematics, and performer (gospel genre).

His personal ongoing, or that which shapes his thriving, are parenting of three children with his wife, Doris, pastoring (2004-2016), and poetry (children & adult literature, inclusive within writing—socioeconomic & faith nonfiction), and being a professor.



Heritage Keepers photo by Mr. Alexander Brower

In 2014, Ammie Jenkins, Executive Director of Sandhills Family Heritage Association, presented the Sandhills Heritage Keeper Award to Rev. Leon Dockery, Author of Poetrhyme, a traditional rhyme reading series of family values and educational perceptions.

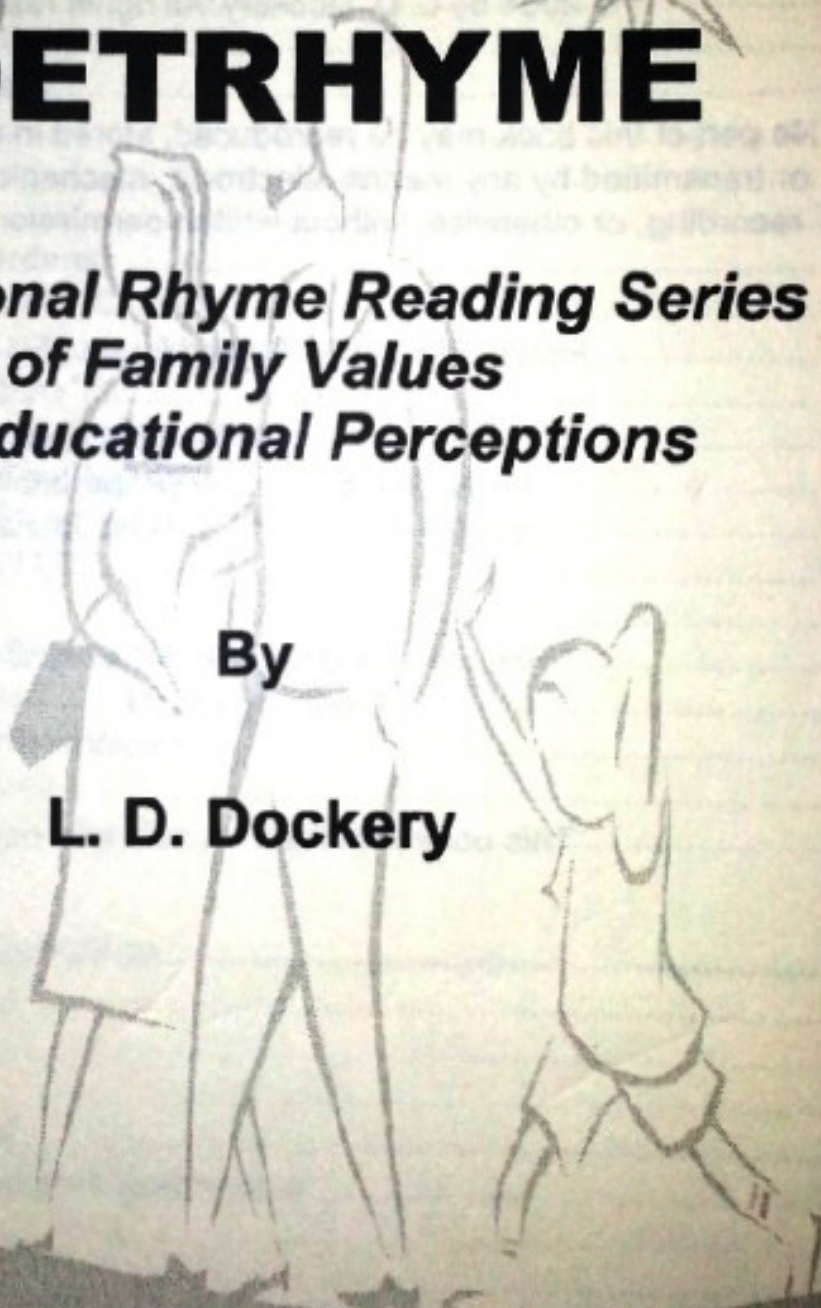


POETRHYME

***A Traditional Rhyme Reading Series
of Family Values
and Educational Perceptions***

By

L. D. Dockery





Just say, YES!

By Janet Brower, Board Chair

Sankofa Youth have had an active part in Sandhills Family Heritage Association since its inception over twenty years ago. Learning projects, public speaking, entrepreneurial opportunities, apprenticeships, community projects and leadership development are just a few of the ways young people have been involved. Youth engagement with SFHA has had a positive impact on the lives of several of these young people. Some have made notable accomplishments in the area of law, business, agriculture and environmental science.

SFHA Board and Staff are inviting area youth to say "yes" to learning about the amazing history and culture of African Americans in the sandhills through stories, artifacts, interviews, food, music, and research. Say "yes" to learning about other African Americans through coin and stamp collecting on Saturday, April 8th at the Community Easter Egg Hunt and Get Active Day" at Mendoza Park in Spring Lake. Registration will be open to join Sankofa Youth.

Say "yes" to learning about the natural resources that were used by the ancestors for health, livelihoods and for survival. What were these natural resources and why have so many people returned to using them today?

Say "yes" to learning about soilless gardening. What is soilless gardening? What materials are needed to grow plants without soil? The Sandhills Farmers and Crafters Market is an excellent opportunity for youth to engage with the public and talk about their experience of researching, growing and harvesting plants grown without soil.

Email or call for more information and expect to have an amazing journey with other young people who have much to learn and even more to teach others!

Call: 919-888-0389/910-309-2198 Email: sandhillsfamily@yahoo.com

Taylor Mebane



I am Taylor Mebane and I had the privilege of working with Sandhills Family Heritage Foundation as an Intern back in 2016. This experience was probably one of the most rewarding ones in my career. I am now in Charlotte working for Mecklenburg County's Land Use and Environmental Services Agency as an Environmental Specialist.

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.

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.



SFHA SENIOR SPOTLIGHT MR. ODELL CAMERON

Mr. Odell donated his field of peas for the SFHA Gardening and Gleaning Project that taught teenagers about the Sandhills African American tradition of giving to those in need.

Gleaning is a traditional Biblical practice of gathering crops by hand that have been left in the fields by the growers. Most of the food is gathered and given to those in need. Gleaning is an African American family tradition that has been handed down through generations and continues to be widely practiced today in the Sandhills of North Carolina.

The SFHA Gardening and Gleaning Project focused on African American cultural heritage preservation that reconnects our youth to their ancestral lands by encouraging new relationships with community seniors.

Local youth were partnered with senior adult gardeners to learn traditional land stewardship and gardening practices.



Mr. Odell Cameron

"I grew up on a small farm. The only thing we had to do was work on the farm. I have always liked to grow my own vegetables."



**Sankofa Gardening
and Gleaning**
in the
North Carolina Sandhills





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

JAN-FEB FOOD DISTRIBUTION STATISTICS

HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

 **1,018**
AT FOOD PANTRY
405
AT DRIVE THRU SITES

INDIVIDUALS SERVED

 **2,468**
AT FOOD PANTRY
1,059
AT DRIVE THRU SITES

 **333**
SFHA VOLUNTEER
HOURS

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

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SANDHILLS FAMILY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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910-309-2198 or 919-888-0389

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