
INTRODUCTION

U.S. Congressman George Henry White was a household name in North Carolina and most of the nation at the turn of the 20th century. During his lifetime from 1852 to 1918, he was the nation's highest elected African American official and from 1897 to 1901 was a major civil rights leader for equal rights and economic empowerment for people of color. White's prophecy in his farewell address to the U.S. Congress, January 29, 1901, stated "Phoenix-like, he will rise up someday and come again."

VISION



BESDF, Inc. has established a memorial in Bladen County, NC to honor George Henry White in his birth county and to serve as a focus for the memory of his life and legacy. It will also provide a location for the commemoration, remembrance, and recognition of the rich history of Farmer's Union and its surrounding communities where he was raised. This memorial will serve as a community museum, to keep on record, chronicle, hand down

to posterity, commemorate, and keep alive persons, events, and activities of the community over its existence. It will also help to improve the lives of the citizens of the community by serving as an educational community center where residents can come to hear lectures, attend classes on healthcare and a variety of other subjects, and enjoy fellowship with one another. The establishment of a meals on wheels program operated out of the GHW Center is also a part of the vision for this community facility.

HISTORY

The Farmer's Union Community and its surrounding neighbors, which includes persons living in Bladen and Columbus Counties, has a rich history of multigenerational minority families that attained success repeatedly over two centuries, whether in agriculture, insurance, banking, military, medical, legal or academic fields. The GHW Community Memorial and Education Center will keep the records of persons, events, and activities of the community passed down from generation to generation in conjunction with it serving as a location for educational and community building activities. The property in Bladen County donated to the non-profit Benjamin & Edith Spaulding Descendants Foundation, Inc., for use as the GHW Memorial and Educational Center, was the former home of Mrs. Mattie Spaulding Campbell and her family; and is approximately 100 years old. Dr. Milton E. Campbell and his sister Mrs. Wanda Campbell Clay, who were the heirs to the property, have donated the house and one acre of land to the BESDF, Inc. The property is located in Bladen County, on the Farmer's Union Road, between Porterville School and Mitchell Field Roads. The estimated cost to renovate the home,

landscape, and provide the intended amenities is approximately \$100,000. A representative of the North Carolina Museum of History has agreed to serve as an adviser to our foundation as we move through the steps necessary to bring this project to reality.

PROJECT STATUS AND NEXT STEPS

Since the proposal for the project was introduced at the 2014 BESDA/BESDF Reunion In Asheville, NC, the 100 year-old home has had the following restoration work done, starting during CY 2015; and has provided work for members of the local community:

1. The metal roof has been repaired and major sections replaced.
2. The exterior siding has been repaired, primed, and painted with a high-quality grade of exterior paint.
3. The exterior windows have been repaired and secured with security bars.
4. The four exterior doors have been secured with high security storm doors, and master keyed with deadbolt locks.
5. The second floor is being cleaned out and historical artifacts are being saved and documented.
6. The interior floors and walls have been refinished, and work is progressing with needed additional interior work.
7. A sign has been placed at the property to let the general public know that the project is moving forward.
8. A press release was sent to all of the local newspapers regarding the project, and three news articles were published in the local newspapers.
9. Before and after pictures of work done on the house since 2015 can be seen on the George Henry White website at www.georgehenrywhite.com.
10. The local Community Watch organization has agreed to provide security monitoring for the Center and other services.

The next steps for the project during CY 2018 & CY 2019 include:

1. Complete installation of electrical and mechanical service for the building;
 2. Replacement of the water pump;
 3. Continuation of plans and specifications prepared for renovating the interior of the center, which are being donated by Architect V. M. Spaulding, R.A.;
 4. Continuation of the following fundraising activities: (a) contact donors who donated funds for work done during previous years and others donors, to see if they will make donations towards the work proposed for CY 2018 and CY 2019; (b) update the "Go Fund Me" page for the GHW Community Memorial and Education Center; (c) post information on the GHW Website and the BESDF, Inc.
-

websites regarding the GHW Community Memorial and Education Center; and (d) seek assistance from the BESDF, Inc. Fundraising Committee for their support of the GHW Community Memorial and Education Center in obtaining corporate fund donations.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS



The establishment of the GHW Community Memorial and Education Center facilitates the establishment of a monument in Bladen County where the late Congressman White was raised and will highlight his courageous stand for racial justice in the face of public apathy. This community museum will also provide a location in Bladen County to highlight the rich history of the Farmer's Union

Community, and its surrounding neighbors, e.g. St. James, Bolden, Riegelwood, Pembroke, and other surrounding communities. Public and private donations are being solicited to help finance the project. The BESDF, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit group established for educational, literary, and charitable purposes, among other functions, is leading the project. For your reference, the tax ID number is **50-2068902**. Tax- deductible contributions to bring this project to fruition are welcome and should be provided to BESDF, Inc. as follows:

BESDF, INC.

Attn: GHW Community Memorial Center
7 Jenee Lane, Durham, NC 27703-2563

Amount of Donation: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Questions? Contact Vincent M. Spaulding, R.A. at (202) 441-3589 or via email at vspauld78@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION AND SUPPORT



GEORGE HENRY WHITE

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL AND EDUCATION CENTER BLADEN COUNTY, NC

www.georgehenrywhite.com