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Formation of BEDFORD HISTORICAL SLAVE FOUNDATION [IRS 501(C)3 Corporation - pending]

Bedford, VA (September 28, 2015); The Lowry Family of Bedford VA today announces the formation of the BEDFORD HISTORICAL SLAVE FOUNDATION, a Virginia non-stock corporation. The Foundation plans to create a repository of historic Bedford African-American culture that includes artifacts, family histories and an archive containing genealogical and genetic documentation.

BACKGROUND

The foundation's investigation into slave-era Bedford County was triggered by the recent discovery of a 19th-century gravesite on Rt. 460 in the Town of Bedford. The site contains the remains of more than 20 individuals who were presumably enslaved on Lowry plantations. Enslaved African-Americans (about 11,000) made up 44% percent of the Bedford County population in the mid 1860's. Genealogical and advanced DNA research has already been initiated on dozens of families whose names are associated with slave records from 1850 - 1870 . The Foundation intends to document each identified family's history in the county .

ABOUT

The Bank Of The James made it possible to preserve this valuable part of African-American history by generously donating the Lowry gravesite to the Foundation.

The Foundation will be housed at a former AME (African Methodist Episcopal) church that was donated by the Lynchburg District United Methodist Church. The church, located next to the County Court House at 212 Court St. Bedford VA. was founded around 1887. The current structure was erected circa 1904. The structure will be renovated and will house a state-of-the-art computer system as well as , archival materials including family stories in high-definition images, videos, family trees and related documents. Educational classes will be made available to the County School system.

The Foundation will function under the direction of the following board members;
Ann Duncan, Charles Lowry, David Lowry, Gaynelle Creasy, and Rev. Henry A. Henderson.

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