

Richmond County Historical Society

'Those who don't remember their ancestors don't deserve to be remembered!'

September 2018 Newsletter

The Sounds of Southern Music



Dr. John D. Beck

Some of us may know the origins of the “Blues” (maybe, correct or not) in Southern music. Such music goes way back with much of its foundations from foreign origins.

Learn of early origins at the September 17 meeting of the Richmond County Historical Society at 7 p.m. at Rockingham City Hall presented by Dr. John J. Beck, Ph.D.

His history of much of music in the South will begin by examining music from parts of the world where many of the early settlers of the South were from the British Isles and West Africa.

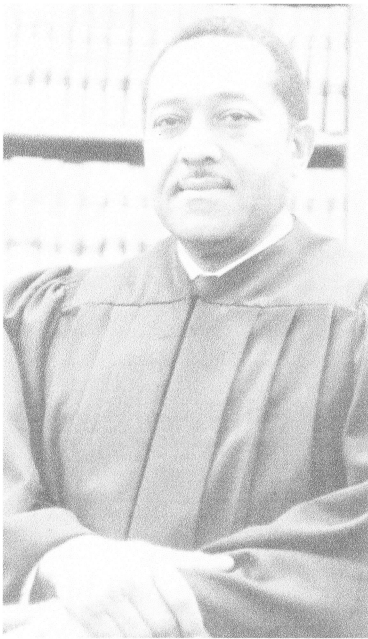
Then Beck will briefly explore a number of popular music styles that developed in the South on the foundations including country, bluegrass, jazz, rhythm and blues and gospel.

“The Rockingham City Hall will have a complete replacement of the console we use to project laptop images to significantly improve our ability to present different presentations,” said Dr. John Stevenson, Society president.

Beck holds a Ph. D. in American History from UNC-Chapel Hill with a specialty in Southern History. He has written a number of articles and essays on topics in Southern history, and made numerous presentations on Southern topics at public programs and professional meetings across the country.

He is co-author of *Southern Culture: An Introduction* and is currently working on a history of Southern food.

He retired from a career in the N. C. Community College system. He has taught at Elon University since 2007.



Henry Ell Frye

In Ellerbe and Richmond County we honor native son Henry Ell Frye for his distinguished service to the people of North Carolina.

Frye was recently honored by the North Carolina Department of Transportation with the naming of the Green Lake Road Bridge over I-73/74 in Ellerbe.

The concern of the Richmond County Historical Society is that Frye might not be that well known, even locally, because he has resided in Greensboro most of his adult life.

This plaque will enhance the naming of the bridge and be a permanent reminder for future generations.

We are indebted to the Leath Foundation, Foundation for Richmond County as part of the Cole Foundation,

Richmond County, Pee Dee Electric Membership Cooperative and the Claude Smith Foundation for making this plaque possible.

The plaque reads:

Henry Ell Frye, born 1932, Ellerbe. Firsts as an African American in North Carolina include: Asst. U. S. District Attorney, 1963; first State Representative since 1899, serving 1969 to 1980; State senate, 1981-1982; Chief Justice, N. C. Supreme Court, 1999-2001. Green Lake Road Bridge over I-73/74 named in his honor.

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In 2013, Howard E. Covington, Jr. published a book, *Henry Frye, North Carolina's First African American Chief Justice*. It recognizes that Frye was a steady voice involved in the transitional race changes taking place in the state in the 20th century.

This plaque will express local pride for a native son who went on to serve the people of North Carolina based on the early values his family and community bestowed upon him in Ellerbe.

The Richmond County Historical Society has ordered the marker. The Town of Ellerbe is providing installation and a location. Dedication will be this Fall.