

GEORGE HENRY WHITE DAY

U.S Representative, 2nd Congressional District, 1897-1901

Saturday, January 29, 2005



Edgecombe County Court House
301 St. Andrew Street, Tarboro, North Carolina
Morning Session – 11:00 AM
“We Will Rise Up Some Day and Come Again”

St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church
100 St. Patrick Street, Tarboro, North Carolina
Afternoon Session- 2:00 PM
“Life and Times of George Henry White”

GEORGE HENRY WHITE

George Henry White was born in Bladen County, N.C., on December 18, 1852. After graduating from Howard University in 1877, he returned to N.C. and served as a teacher, principal and lawyer in New Bern, N.C. White was elected to the N.C. House in 1880 and the N.C. Senate in 1884. He was elected as Second District Solicitor in 1886 and 1890, then the only African American district attorney in the U.S. In 1894 he moved to Tarboro, N.C., home of his wife Cora Lena Cherry, and was elected to the U.S. House from the Second Congressional District in 1896 and re-elected in 1898. White was the only African American in Congress at that time and an outspoken advocate for all ten million African Americans in the U.S. After the fraudulent passage in 1900 of the N.C. constitutional amendment disfranchising black voters, White said he could no longer live in N.C. and be treated as a man. He delivered his famous Farewell to Congress address on January 29, 1901. He lived the remainder of his life in Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, PA, where he established a black owned bank and an all black town named Whitesboro, N.J. White died December 28, 1918.

DVD OF GEORGE HENRY WHITE DAY 2005

On Saturday, January 29, 2005, the Phoenix Society hosted George Henry White Day in Tarboro and Edgecombe County, N.C. The event consisted of two sessions. The morning session in the Superior Court Room of the Edgecombe County Court House featured remarks by Dr. Don Michael Armstrong and Judge Milton F. Fitch, Jr., and the unveiling of a portrait of George Henry White by local artist Richard D. Wilson to hang in the Superior Court Room. The afternoon session featured a panel discussion in the St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church (1883) by historians Dr. David Cecelski, Ms. Dorothy Redford, Dr. Laura Edwards, Mr. Benjamin Justesen and Dr. John Haley.

The DVD Part 1 includes the morning session and the beginning of the afternoon session. Part 2 includes the remainder of the afternoon session.

PHOENIX SOCIETY FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH, INC.

P.O. Box 1191, Tarboro, North Carolina 27886

To recover, record and promote the unique history of Edgecombe County as experienced by members of its African American community.