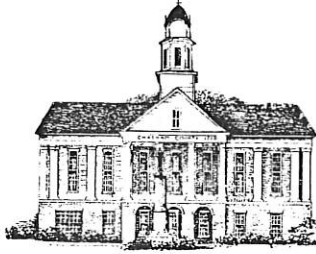


COUNTY OF CHATHAM

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CHARLIE HORNE
County Manager

ROBERT L. GUNN
County Attorney

Phone (919) 542-8200

P. O. BOX 87

PITTSBORO, N. C. 27312

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM GEORGE MOSES HORTON POET LAUREATE OF CHATHAM COUNTY

WHEREAS, George Moses Horton was a Chatham County citizen, and his citizenship was compromised by involuntary servitude; and

WHEREAS, George Moses Horton possessed a strong work ethic and worked to teach himself to read and write, eventually becoming a poet; and

WHEREAS, George Moses Horton became a noted writer of love poems to the extent that he began selling them to buy his freedom, eventually venturing into other verse, including works on being auctioned, on experiencing slavery and on living the injustice of slavery; and

WHEREAS, George Moses Horton became acknowledged as the “slave poet” and the “colored bard of North Carolina,” although largely unknown except in literary circles; and

WHEREAS, George Moses Horton exemplified the commitment to self-development even in the grips of slavery; and

WHEREAS, cherishing his role in history, appreciating his quest for excellence, and acknowledging that George Moses Horton’s story represents a powerful message on the values of self-improvement, literacy, artistic accomplishment and freedom; and


WHEREAS, 1997 marks the 200th anniversary of George Moses Horton’s birth; and

WHEREAS, these words, which he penned, speak eloquently to us even today, and are included in this resolution as part of our tribute to him:


“This is enough, without a name-
Go, tell him what is done;
Behold the feeble, weak and lame,
With strength rise up and run.”

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that George Moses Horton's name be memorialized in Chatham County and henceforth be known as the historic poet laureate of Chatham County.

Adopted this, the 7th day of April, 1997.


Margaret Bryant Pollard, Chair

ATTEST


Sandra B. Lee, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners