



## African American History

Greater Fayetteville's African American population has a lengthy and diverse history. Even while there were slaves working some of the farms in this area, there was a sizeable population of free blacks working at various trades, such as shoemaking, barbering, and blacksmithing. Today, there are several events and organizations which celebrate Black heritage and African American culture. The Sankofa Festival is held each fall in Spring Lake by the Sandhills Family Heritage Association. At the festival, you can enjoy music, Southern style food, children's games, Black Heritage exhibits, steppers, storytellers, and a King and Queen Sankofa contest. The Umoja festival, celebrating unity, is held in late summer near Fayetteville State University. Fayetteville State University is a Historically Black University, and has events throughout the year featuring prominent African Americans. For more information on African American history in our area, go to [www.VisitFayettevilleNC.com](http://www.VisitFayettevilleNC.com), or call 910-483-5311.