

H.D. POPE FUNERAL HOMES, INC.

Personal Service | Peace of Mind | Pleasant Memories

“On Summer”

by

George Moses Horton

Esteville begins to burn;
The auburn fields of harvest rise;
The torrid flames again return,
And thunders roll along the skies.

Perspiring Cancer lifts his head,
And roars terrific from on high;
Whose voice the timid creatures
dread;
From which they strive with awe to
fly.

The night-hawk ventures from his
cell,
And starts his note in evening air;
He feels the heat his bosom swell,
Which drives away the gloom of fear.

Thou noisy insect, start thy drum;
Rise lamp-like bugs to light the train;
And bid sweet Philomela come,
And sound in front the nightly strain.

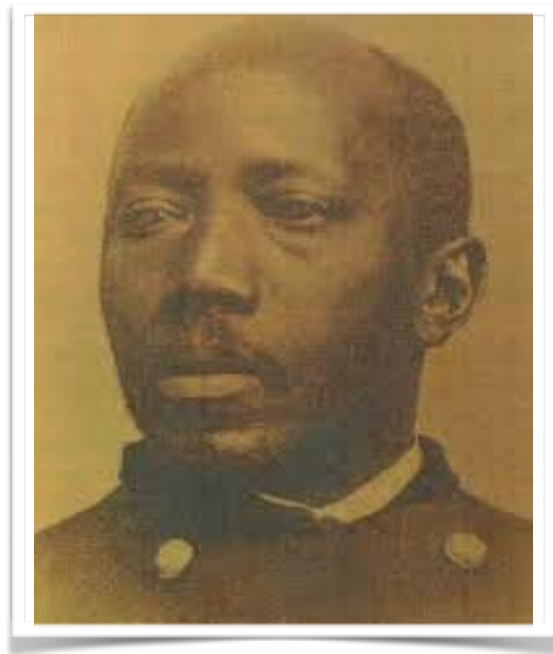
The bee begins her ceaseless hum,
And doth with sweet exertions rise;
And with delight she stores her comb,
And well her rising stock supplies.

Let sportive children well beware,
While sprightly frisking o'er the
green;
And carefully avoid the snare,
Which lurks beneath the smiling
scene.

The mistress bird assumes her nest,
And broods in silence on the tree,
Her note to cease, her wings at rest,
She patient waits her young to see.

www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/185976

April is Poetry Month



George Moses Horton

George Moses Horton is believed to have been born around 1797 or 1798 in Northampton County, NC. In 1800, George, his mother, and his siblings—all enslaved—were moved to Chatham County, NC to a tobacco plantation.

At an early age, Horton taught himself to read using religious hymnals and other reading material he was able to acquire from white children. Though he was unable to write until later in his adult years, he would compose poems in his head and later recite them.

As a teen, Sundays for Horton consisted of taking fruits to Chapel Hill to sell to students at the University of North



Pope's Corner

At our Holiday Celebration, we acknowledged that economically, our country has made some progress. However, our counties and some of our families are still suffering. As a part of your family, H.D. Pope Funeral Homes would like to extend an offer to those who may or may not have life insurance or Preneed coverage.

For a limited time, anyone who opens a fully funded Preneed program through one of our in-house Preneed companies will receive a free casket. Please visit our Rocky Mount or Roanoke Rapids locations for more information.

To schedule a Preneed seminar, contact one of our offices.

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Carolina and others. In the biography George Moses Horton: American Poet, William Carrroll notes salesmen had to entertain their potential buyers prior to purchase. This practice led to Horton reciting his poems and eventually being paid to compose love poems for students on campus. His talents were in great demand.

Though still enslaved in 1829, Horton became the first published black in the South with his first printed poem, "Liberty and Slavery" as well as his first book, The Hope of Liberty.

Horton Middle School in Pittsboro, NC is named for him in addition to George Moses Horton Residence Hall located on the campus of UNC-CH.

April Dates & Events

- 1 - April Fool's Day
- 3 - Good Friday
- 5 - Easter Sunday
- 22 - Earth Day

