

City of Sanford Appearance Commission
115 Chatham Street
Sanford, NC

JUNETEENTH CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

Overview

The City of Sanford Appearance Commission is sponsoring a Juneteenth creative writing contest for high schoolers in Lee County. Submissions should be written to be read aloud, which could take the form of:

- Poetry
- Monologue
- Spoken word

Eligibility Requirements

To be considered, students must:

- be in rising grade 9 through rising grade 12, and
- live and attend school in Lee County.

This contest is open to all high school students in Lee County, including those in public, private, and charter schools as well as those in home or virtual schools.

Rules

All submissions must comply with the following rules to be considered:

- Submissions must adhere to the contest topic.
- Submissions should be the student's own writing and original thinking.
- Each student may make only one submission.
- Each submission must include a completed and attached entry form.

Award

There will be first, second, and third place winners. The first place winner will receive a \$100 gift card, the second place winner will receive a \$50 gift card, and the third place winner will receive a \$25 gift card.

A panel of judges from the Lee County community will select the winners.

The first place winner will be asked to read/perform the winning submission at the Juneteenth Concert on Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Entries must be received electronically or postmarked by May 24, 2024.

Juneteenth Creative Writing Contest Entry Form

To enter the award program, complete the below entry form and attach it to your submission. This entry form must be filled out completely.

Student's Name		Parent's Name		
Address		City	State	Zip
Phone Number		Email Address		
School Name			Graduation Year	

Please read carefully and sign to indicate your agreement: I attest that my entry reflects my own writing and original thinking about the provided topic.

Student signature (required)	Date
Parent/Guardian signature (required)	Date

Submit entries by May 24, 2024:

- by email lizwhitmore@sanfordnc.net
 - by mail to Sanford Appearance Commission, 115 Chatham Street, Sanford, NC 27330
- OR
- in person to Planning Department, 115 Chatham Street, Sanford, NC

TOPIC

Read “The Story of Line Bingham” and reflect on her life. Consider Ms. Bingham’s place in history, what she survived, what she sacrificed, and how she lived. Think about how Ms. Bingham connects a city in North Carolina to the Juneteenth experience. Consider how we know Ms. Bingham’s story and how the perceptions of a historian might influence the story. What is included? What is left out? Write a poem, spoken word, or monologue about Line Bingham that explores these ideas and themes.

THE STORY OF LINE BINGHAM



Line Bingham was an enslaved person born in Hillsborough, Orange County, date unknown. Her parents had been sold into slavery in Africa. Line was purchased by Captain Robert Bingham, who lived in Chapel Hill and was involved in the early building of the University of North Carolina.

Prior to the beginning of the Civil War, Capt. Bingham passed ownership of Line and her daughter Ann to his daughter in Texas.

Line and Ann were enslaved in Texas until word reached them in 1865 that the Civil War had ended, the Union had won, and that Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 was in effect and that slavery was abolished.

The date that the last enslaved people in Texas found out that slavery was outlawed is now known as Juneteenth.

Upon learning that slavery was abolished, Line and Ann made their way back to North Carolina. They had no source of transportation, so – except for the occasional wagon ride – Line and Ann primarily walked the entire thousand miles. Their journey took a total of three months.

After making it to North Carolina, Line and Ann settled in the (then) Moore County community that would later be named Sanford. Line was hired to work for John D. McIver, one of Sanford's early residents.

When railroad engineer Col. Charles Ogburn Sanford began the work of bringing the Raleigh and Augusta Airline Railroad from Raleigh to Moore County, he hired Line to be his cook. A depot was built for the growing rail village, though it was only for cargo. Col. Sanford's work bringing the railroad through the area led to him becoming the town's namesake.

The Railroad House, which still stands in downtown Sanford, was built in 1870 as both the first passenger depot in Sanford for the Raleigh and Augusta Airline Railroad and as a home for William Tucker, the first passenger depot agent, and his wife Inder. The Tuckers hired Line to cook for them, as well.

On February 11, 1874, the North Carolina General Assembly passed "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Sanford." The incorporation went into effect on April 1, 1874. William Tucker became the town's first mayor. Line continued to work for the Tuckers during this time.

Tucker later rose to the position of the chief paymaster for the Raleigh and Augusta Airline Railroad. Each time his duties would send him through Sanford, he would wire ahead for "Aunt Line," as she was called, to meet him at the depot with his lunch. He paid her \$5 for this service, quite a large sum of money at the time.

Line and her family lived in a small house on Cherry Street owned by the Lutterloh family. Ann married and became Ann Waddell. Line worked for the Lutterlohs and was the main caretaker for child Isaac Henderson Lutterloh, who went on to become the town doctor. Line worked for the Lutterloh family until her death.

Line died on January 18, 1918. She was believed to be over 100 years old. She is buried in White Oak Cemetery.

Dr. Lutterloh (senior), who first shared the story of Line Bingham and who was raised by her, said: "Line Bingham was a lady of high intelligence with a good sense of humor. She was strong and determined. Her example of devotion and love for this section of North Carolina has rarely been surpassed."