

## Special Events/Special People

The 154<sup>th</sup> Annual Emancipation Celebration will be held at Bob Evans Farms in Rio Grande, Ohio on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The planned event promises excitement and entertainment for all age groups.

Friday, September 17, 2017 a Homecoming Reception and Concert will be held at the Ariel-Dater Hall in Gallipolis, Ohio beginning at 6:00 pm.

History will come alive with the Civil War Re-enactors & USCT 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment who will be encamping on the grounds. Presentations by several historical re-enactors in the Main tent.

Well known vocalists will perform both Saturday and Sunday. The River Valley High School Marching Band and Civil War Musician Steve Ball will perform on Saturday morning. The Geiger Family of St. Albans, WV will perform Sunday afternoon.

Sunday morning services with gospel music by Combined Church Choir and inspirational sermon by Reverend Dr. Michael Poke, of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, St. Albans, WV.

Sunday's keynote speaker is Dr. John Mattox, Curator of the Underground Railroad Museum in Flushing, OH.

We are expecting dignitaries from our local, state and national offices. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend. Both days include food booths, arts & crafts, health fair, birthday chronicles, games for the young and fun for all in attendance.

**Saturday, September 16th**

**10:00 a.m.**

### Opening Ceremony

Raising of the Flag .....Bill Jackson/Civil War Troops  
Musical Selections.....River Valley H.S. Marching Band  
Pledge of Allegiance.....Gallia Sub-District Youth  
Welcome..... Andrew Gilmore, President  
Invocation.....Minister Marlin Griffin  
Negro Anthem.....Jeannie Williams  
Holzer Health Fair Announcement.....Holzer Staff  
Birthday Chronicles Announcement.....AAA District 7  
**10:30 am**.....Kids Fun Day Begins  
Offering  
Special Music .....Steve Ball, Civil War Musician

*Throughout the day, watch for historical moments*



**COSI on Wheels – located in  
 COSI Kiosk Trailer on the grounds  
 Program to held beginning at 1:00  
 pm**



**Columbus Zoo & Aquarium –  
 Promotions/Animal Encounters  
 Program to be held beginning at 3:00  
 pm**

### Afternoon Program

**2:00 p.m.**

Welcome & Recognition of Local, State & National Dignitaries.....Glenn Miller, Vice-President  
Recognition of Past Presidents.....Glenn Miller, Vice-President  
Remarks.....Gallia County Sheriff Matt Champlin  
Special Presentation.....Batman & Wonder Woman  
Remarks....Frederick Douglas & Abraham Lincoln (portrayed by Michael Crutcher & Gerald Payn)  
Offering  
Scholarship Presentation.....Mr. Arthur Clark  
Closing Remarks.....Glenn Miller, Vice-President

**Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 a.m.**

### Morning Worship Service

Welcome.....Glenn Miller, Vice-President  
Special Music.....Combined Church Choir  
Devotional.....led by Deacon Glenn Miller  
Special Music.....Combined Church Choir  
Offering  
Introduction of Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Gene Armstrong  
Sermon.....Reverend Dr. Michael Poke, of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, St. Albans, WV

### Afternoon Program

**2:00 p.m.**

Welcome.....Andrew Gilmore, President  
Recognition of Local, State & National Dignitaries & Emancipation Board..... Andrew Gilmore, President  
Introduction Keynote Speaker.....Rev. Dr. Gene Armstrong  
**Keynote Speaker...Dr. John S. Mattox, Curator of the Underground Railroad Museum, Flushing, OH**  
Offering  
Special Music.....The Geiger Family, St. Albans, WV  
Special Remarks...Dr. Michelle Johnston, President of the University of Rio Grande  
Special Remarks.....TBD  
Special Music.....The Geiger Family, St. Albans, WV  
Closing Remarks.....Andrew Gilmore, President

**Gallia County Emancipation Celebration is proud to partner with:**



**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Continuous Activities Saturday & Sunday**  
**10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

**Located in the Quilt Barn:**

**April Sunami, a Mixed-Media Artist** from Columbus, Ohio will showcase some of her art during the Emancipation.

Located under the tents:

Art Display  
Boutique Sales  
Arts, Crafts, and Book Sales  
Historical Displays  
Genealogical Exhibits  
Voter Registration Booth  
Food and Soft Drink Vendors

Recreation: Free games for youth & adults

Health Fair: Holzer Health System Staff

Birthday Chronicles: Area Agency on Aging 7

Bossard Library Staff: in the Log Cabin

Schoolhouse on BEF grounds

RV/Camping Facilities

Handicapped Accessible

**Please note:** Working firearms, drugs & alcohol are prohibited on the grounds during the Emancipation Celebration.

**Directions:**

2017 Gallia County Emancipation Celebration will be held 9/16/2017 – 9/17/2017 at:

**Bob Evans Farms**  
**10854 State Route 588**  
**Rio Grande, Ohio 45674**

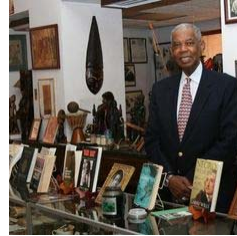
2017 Homecoming Reception and Concert will be held 9/15/2017 at:

**Ariel-Dater Hall**  
**426 Second Avenue**  
**Gallipolis, Ohio 45631**

2017 154th EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Dr. John S. Mattox, Curator of the**  
**Underground Railroad Museum in**  
**Flushing, OH**

Bob Evans Farms Main Stage at 2:00pm Sunday, September 17, 2017



Dr. John S. Mattox of Flushing, Ohio, served in the US Air Force from 1959 to 1965. He attended Houston Tillitson College in Austin, TX where he majored in Sociology and Psychology. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service Degree from Ohio University. Dr. Mattox is a member of the National Park Service-National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, the Ohio Museum Society, the Ohio History Connection, the Smithsonian Institution, the Ohio Civil War Roundtable and numerous other organizations and committees.

He is married to his wife Rosalind with two children (John Jr. & Suzanne) and four grandchildren.

Dr. John S. Mattox is the Founder and Curator of the Underground Railroad Museum located at 121 High Street, Flushing, Ohio. Dr. Mattox is a local historian with an extensive collection of books, other publications and artifacts that he has combined and put on display at the Underground Railroad Museum.

As Curator, Dr. Mattox shares his knowledge of the Underground Railroad and the thousands of slaves that escaped the brutal effects of slavery in the South. Dr. Mattox states that by sharing his heritage with other people, we will learn what we have in common and be able to strengthen our network of understanding. This, in turn, will stimulate our youth to greater interest and comprehension of this aspect of American history.

Dr. Mattox wants to preserve and support our culture and community by contributing to a better quality of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. According to Dr. Mattox, the establishment of the Underground Railroad Museum will allow us to exchange ideas and experiences that will enlighten and inform others about the religious leaders (Abolitionists) and their condemnation of slavery.

In January 2016, Dr. Mattox signed a letter of intent to purchase the Benjamin Lundy House, which is located in St. Clairsville, Ohio. Benjamin Lundy resided in this home and while there, established the Union Humane Society, the first organization dedicated to the abolition of slavery west of the Appalachian Mountains. Shortly thereafter, he began publishing the anti-slavery papers, for which he became known. Dr. John Mattox is determined to keep the Underground Railroad Museum and the Benjamin Lundy House joined together so as to enlighten the community as to the historical significance of the Abolitionist Movement and the Underground Railroad in bringing about the end of slavery in America.

**154th**  
**ANNUAL**  
**EMANCIPATION DAY**  
**CELEBRATION**

**September 15, 2017**  
**ARIEL-DATER HALL**  
**426 Second Avenue**  
**Gallipolis, OH**

**September 16-17, 2017**  
**BOB EVANS FARMS**  
**10854 State Route 588**  
**Rio Grande, OH**

**2017 Theme:**

**“Building the Future by Celebrating**  
**the Past”**



**GALLIPOLIS**  
**OHIO**

**Sponsored by:**  
**The Emancipation Celebration Day**  
**Committee, Inc.**  
**P O Box 511**  
**Gallipolis, OH 45631**

Visit us on the Web at:  
[www.emancipation-day.com](http://www.emancipation-day.com)