



ALBEMARLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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NEXT MEETING & PROGRAM

"Dare County in the 1930s: Decade of Determination."

The Outer Banks History Center in Manteo is having their annual meeting on Friday, April 12, beginning at 4 p.m. There will be a panel discussion by local experts on the new exhibit: "Dare County in the 1930s: Decade of Determination." The exhibit opened on March 1 with a reception and will be up for several months; by attending the Annual meeting we will have the opportunity to hear the speakers. Afterward, there will be a reception and time to view the exhibit. Members can meet at the Barco Library, or wherever interested folks want to meet and carpool to Manteo.

Thanks to everyone who showed up for the business meeting on March 23. We decided that perhaps the way of the future for the organization since we've moved to more digital resources and probably won't be printing any more books, is to hold a workshop/conference in the fall. It's been about 6 years since one was done in Pasquotank County, so the time is good! A committee was formed to organize the event. To make this event a success we need your help! An email has already been sent to all members describing what AGS has in mind for the conference. PLEASE contact us if you wish to help or have any feedback.

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Meeting Minutes from Powells Point Christian Church Give Insight into Ethics of the Day

by Jeanne Meekins Murray

The Currituck library recently obtained a copy of the original earliest record book of Powells Point Christian Church of Harbinger, NC, covering the years 1887-1917. Records include membership, baptisms, deaths, marriages, lists of elders, lists of deacons, list of organists, and church meeting minutes. An index to this book may be obtained from the Currituck Library and should soon appear on the AGS website.

The record book is, according the title page, The Standard Church Register and Record, published by Standard Publishing Company, Cincinnati, OH. On the endsheet, in handwriting, is written "Church Register May 31st 1887-1910; however, meeting records extend to 1917. The endsheet also mentions the church covenant on p. 215, but that page has been excised from the book. A note in another hand indicates that there is "no such thing as a church covenant in the scripture." Interestingly, in the minutes of the church meetings, a covenant was indeed written and ratified in February 1891.

According to the records, a "meeting house" was erected in 1885 and that building was moved to become a residence. The current Powells Point Christian Church was erected in 1910. The members of the congregation had begun meeting in a schoolhouse in 1879. A more complete history of the church may be found on its website: <http://www.powellspointchristianchurch.org/HistoricalArchives.dsp>.

For the most part, if the minutes are any indication, the meetings of the church were primarily held to take disciplinary action and to appoint delegates to various conferences and meeting held at other churches. Deacon appointments are also noted. I find the language of disciplinary action interesting in that the "church withdrew from" whoever it was that was being disciplined—a kind of shunning it seems. Here are a few excerpts from the minutes so that you can get the flavor of the church during this time period.

"Saturday before 1st Lords day in December 1888 Bro Henry Harrison was chosen moderator Bro J. D. hart Reported under the Influence of Whiskey. Bro E. Tillett was Requested by Church to see Bro Hart and Prevail with him to cease Drinking to an Excess."

"Saturday before 1st Lords day in March 1889 . . . the names of Hezekiah Owens, E. V. Melson J. T. Gard & Jame Sawyer were Reported to the church as under the Influence of ardent Spirits. A Committee of the following Brethren were chosen to visit the above named Brethren" [no list given; in a meeting in June, all brethren were "forgiven & Restored."]

On Oct. 8, 1891, "Bro William L. Griggs was chosen as Delegate to Represent this body in the Annual Convention" held in the "City of Newbern."

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“Saturday before 1st Sunday in September 1893 . . .A committee was Appointed Composed of L. G. Dowdy & W. H. Gallop to see H. H. Harrison in Regard to His non Attendance.” H. H. Harrison was “dismissed from the Congregation” on the first Saturday in October 1893. In 1898, a R. W. Slansell attempted to pass a resolution to reinstate H. H. Harrison, but it appears that even though Slansell “insisted,” the group did not consider his resolution.

“Saturday before 2nd lord’s day in April 1897. . . Sister Marry Fulcher was reported and church withdrew from her on act of bad conduct. Bro Green reported Bro Joe Hart as an infidell church withdrew from Bro Hart on act of same.”

“Sat. Jan 17th 1903 – By order of conference of the Church of Christ Expell T. B. Harrison for unchristian conduct.”

“Saturday before 5th Sunday in May 1904 . . .Visited bro J. P. Owens for drinking bro Owens said his habit of strong drink was too great for him to over come and the church could take such action in the case as it choose.”

Dec. 10, 1905, the church agreed to “call to the pastorate of the church of the church [sic] was extended to Bro. J. Preston Lewis of Norfolk Va. at a salary of one hundred and fifty dollars per year.”

Our thanks to Brenda Miller of the Powells Point Christian Church for allowing us to copy and archive this record book.

A Record of the Deaths of the Members Belonging to the Regular Baptist Church at Powells Point; Kept by C.T. Sawyer, Clerk

From the records of Bill Harris

Sister Salley Gibbens	departed this life Oct. 15, 1839
Brother Wallis Etheridge	departed this life December 1939
Brother Jacob Beasley	departed this life May 1840
Sister Betsey Whitson	departed this life May 1840
Sister Hanner	departed this life Sept 1840
Sister Sarah Sawyer	departed this life October 27, 1840
Brother William Grieves	departed this life Dec. 1840
Brother John Mercer	departed this life Sept. 1840
Brother William Shannon	departed this life Dec. 1840
Brother James Evens	departed this life Nov. 1841
Brother William Snow	departed this life Dec. 1842
Brother Fredrick Owens	departed this life March 15, 1839
Brother James Melson	departed this life July 4, 1843
Sister Sarah Parker	departed this life January 1844
Sister Abby Tillett	departed this life Aug. 21, 1844

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Brother Thomas Gregory	departed this life December 2, 1844
Brother Neddy Pain	departed this life Oct. 18, 1845
Sister Mavey D. Dowdy	departed this life Jan. 2, 1846
Brother John Grieves	departed this life Dec. 1846
Sister Alief Soues	departed this life Feb. 9, 1847
Sister Aany Owens	departed this life Nor. 1 or 9, 1847
Sister Polly Owens	departed this life April 30, 1851
Sister Sally Harris	departed this life June 6, 1851
Brother James Gibens	departed this life June 11, 1851
Sister Golden Patridge	departed this life Nov. 7, 1851
Brother Wilson Sawyer	departed this life May 8, 1847
Sister Sally Greves	departed this life Oct. 1, 1852
Brother Jesse Patridge	departed this life Feb. 14, 1853
Sister Ieseah Owens	departed this life Aug. 19, 1854
Sister Sally Benson	on Sept. 28, 1853
Sister Nancy Paine	on 31, January 1855
Sister Dorcas Etheridge	8th March 1855
Sister Belanca Chambers	22 Oct. 1857
Sister Julia Dowdy	5 Jan. 1858
Brother Jesse Evens	died November 5, 1859
Sister Dorces Lindsey	died November 25, 1860
Sister Peggy Forbes	died January 24, 1861
Sister Lovey McKemmy	died May 8, 1861
Sister Polley Snow	died October 10, 1861
Sister Polley Parker	died Feb. 25, 1866
Brother Wallis Twiford	died October 19, 1866
Bro. William Bronson	born Feb. 23, 1811, departed this life Nov. 3, 1868 Ag.57, 1mo. 10days
Sister Lylia Owens	decest this life April 30, 1869
Bro. Geng Will	departed this life 1870
Sister Margner Toller	departed this life Dec. 12, 1871
Sister Chaney Perry	departed Jan. 3, 1871
Sister Suson Siks	May 1871
Bro. Watmon Forbes	departed 2 June 1873
Sister Sarah Etheridge	departed this life 1875
Bro. Ivy Dowdy	departed this life 30 Jan. 1876
Sister Delarey Dowdy	departed this life the 10 Oct. 1877
Sister Salley Perry	departed this life 2 Nov. 1877
Sister Bithenly Snow	departed this life Nov. 7, 1877
Sister Julia A. Dulian	departed this life Aug. 1, 1883
Sister Lydia Aydelett	departed this life Oct. 27, 1884
Sister Patty Owens	departed this life Oct. 1893
Sister Sally Crank	departed this life Sept. 12, 1894
Sister Millie Parker	departed this life Dec. 2, 1896
Bro. Jordan Parker	departed this life Mar. 2, 1897

Doctors in Currituck County:

by Jeanne Meekins Murray

The following list was found in the Col. Gordon C. Jones files at the Currituck Public Library. Col. Jones gleaned the information for a book called *Wills and Other Documents*, according to a note at the top of the document. He includes page numbers from that book where the details are found, but I have not included them here. I have made small editorial corrections but have spelled all names exactly as found in the document. If you would like to have a copy of the original document, including the page numbers, contact the library.

Dr. Greves

1791--witnessed the will of Spence Hall

1792—executor for Elizabeth Card

Dr. William Leigh

1802—executor for Francis Williamson whose will was probated in Norfolk County, VA

Dr. David Jones

1805—executor for Matthew Ellis

1815—executor Elizabeth Lee

1822—his will including bequests to Dr. E. D. Ferebee

Dr. John T. Hampton

1815—witness for Bowen Green

1816—witness for John Jarvis

1821—witness for Edward Holloway

1831—his will. His executors are directed to sell medicines, shop, books, etc.

Dr. Gideon C. Marchant (son of Gideon, will 1774)

1818—witness will of Willoughby Dozier

1819—witness will of William Anderson

1822—executor and witness for John Mackie

1824—executor for Thomas Morse

1836—executor and witness for Nancy Barnard

1832—heir in the will of Miller Sawyer

1841—witness will of Nathan Bright

1844—executor for Johnson Marchant

1847—executor for John Humphries

Dr. Enoch D. Ferebee

1821—witness will of Frances Gregory

1822—inherited medicine, books, and equipment from Dr. David Jones

1824—witness will of Rebecca Simmons

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1824—executor and witness for John B. Bunnell

1827—witness will of Isaih Poyner

1843—executor for his father, Samuel, Sr., age 83, mentioned as son.

Dr. John Betts

1823—witness will of Enoch S. Forbes

1826—witness will of Augustus Linton

Dr. Edmund Sanderson Lindsey

Will in Pasquotank co. 1827. He was born in Currituck, practiced in Pasquotank, owned lots on Nixonton. He married in 1823 Jane B. Macdonald of Newbegun Creek. She later married Jonathan Bray Lindsey and is buried (d. 1858) on the Walker farm south of Poplar Branch. Her husband is buried next to his father, Daniel Lindsey, Sr. in the Poyner cemetery near the Van Slack house at Poplar Branch—cemetery and house were Lindsey property.

Dr. Phineas Sanborn

1824—executor for Sarah H. Burrows of Norfolk Co.

Dr. John Robertson

1843—will of Samuel Ferebee, Sr. mentions land bought of Dr. John Robertson

Tidbits of Interest

by Jeanne Meekins Murray

I was doing some research for Ginger Smith and ran across the following story in the Lillian West Wetherington papers. At the top of the paper the story was in it says, “Executed by Mrs. N. S. B. Alexander in the 79th year of her age for her sister, Mrs. J. F. Royster.” Lillian made the note beside the story, “No proof,” but it’s an interesting story and quite probable nonetheless.

“Joseph Bell was the one who was apparently dead of “swamp fever” as teen-ager and was revived by the negro nurse-midwife on the [?] and the family doctor, with the men of the family helping. They worked on him for eight hours, heat, massage, and artificial respiration. They were already getting ready for the wake and funeral when he was finally saved. When the minister and family doctor finally came out to announce that the ‘corpse was back in bed recovering,’ several guests fainted and gave the rescuers more work. The rescue methods were old ones. The rescue started to work when the old nurse said that she believed he could be saved that she had saved babies in as bad a condition. With the men to help her they went to work and were too busy to let the rest of the household know what was going on. Joseph bell went on to live a very active life until the later part of the century. Sometime I’ll tell of the escape of Joseph and Samuel during the Civil War. That is a story in itself. These two always acted in unison.”

Knotts Island Mystery

By Dorothy Hocutt

An interesting story of a long ago murder has been going around here in Currituck, in particular Knotts Island. The headlines read; “Knotts Island Scene Killing Tuesday Night” (Elizabeth News, July 14, 1926), “Man Adrift in Boat is Sought as Slayer” (The Washington Post, Washington DC, July 16, 1926), “Kills Sweetheart, Shoots Lover on Lonely Road” (The Bee, Danville VA)

It is alleged, George Waterfield, shot and killed 17 year old Bertha Ansell, and shot and wounded her companion William Tatem while they were walking by his house. One newspaper report says Waterfield shot and killed the girl he loved and her lover after encountering them on a lonely road. Another reports Tatem stating he met Ms. Ansel and they walked up to the Waterfield home, the girl stopped and they talked with Waterfield. There had been some talk about the girl, Tatem declared, and he asked Waterfield not to talk any more about her. That was when Waterfield reached behind the fence, got his shotgun and shot Ms. Ansell dead, and wounded Tatem. Waterfields mother, wife and child were inside the house at the time. Yet another newspaper reports that Waterfield stated there were at least two others he wanted to kill before he is taken prisoner. It is charged that Waterfield killed the girl because of a grudge he had against her father. The men had a quarrel and Waterfield is alleged to have sworn he would “get even” with Ansell.

In all newspaper accounts he is eluding a posse somewhere in Back Bay or Currituck Sound in a skiff. Later newspaper accounts found the skiff and Waterfield dead with a self inflicted gunshot wound.

The stories local Knotts Islanders heard as children was; the body that was found in the boat was too short to be Waterfield, a grave plot was dug up to provide a body, and some say his mother helped him escape.

William Tatem was my grandmother’s brother, the story I remember hearing was that Uncle Willie was ‘messing around’ with someone he shouldn’t. Uncle Willie and Ms. Ansel would walk most evenings by Waterfield’s home when Mrs. Waterfield would come out and join them in their walk supposedly to meet further down the road with her lover. Was Uncle Willie sweet on Ms. Ansell or perhaps Mrs. Waterfield?

Well, I decided to look at this from a genealogist’s angle. I found the death certificates for Bertha Ansell and George Waterfield. Nothing unusual about Bertha Ansell’s certificate –white, female, single, 16 years 1 month and 5 days old, names both father and mother, date of death - July 13, 1926. Cause of death – Homicide (Death due to gun shot wound in neck, right side. Instant death.). Informant was her father Charles T. Ansell.

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George Waterfield Certificate – White, male, married, 41 years 9 months 21 days old, names mother and father, date of death – supposed to July 14, 1926, cause of death - self-inflicted gun shot wound. The Informant was his mother Julia A. Waterfield. The strangest thing about this certificate to me is it stated he was married but it did not give the name of his wife Blanche Waterfield. There is no grave marker on Knotts Island with George Waterfield's name on it.

The 1930 census has Blanche Waterfield, living in Norfolk in her father's, Orry Bailey, household; she is 23 years old, widowed, and her son James is 6. The 1940 Census has James, 16, living with his grandfather Orry Bailey. I also saw on someone's ancestor chart where Blanche had married a Smith. Too many of them for me to want to search further!!

I came to my own conclusion. I could be right, I could be wrong, but it was fun investigating.

If you want to read more on this subject visit <http://kiscrapbook.knottsislandonline.com/>
Look at Island Life then on Murders.

If you did not get your membership dues in yet please remit to:

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