



Mission and Objectives

Poplar Grove promotes the spirit of the lower Cape Fear region through education, conservation, and preservation.

We seek to –

reflect upon the practices of a self-sustaining farm, including enslavement, tenant farming, the heritage arts, legislation, and technology

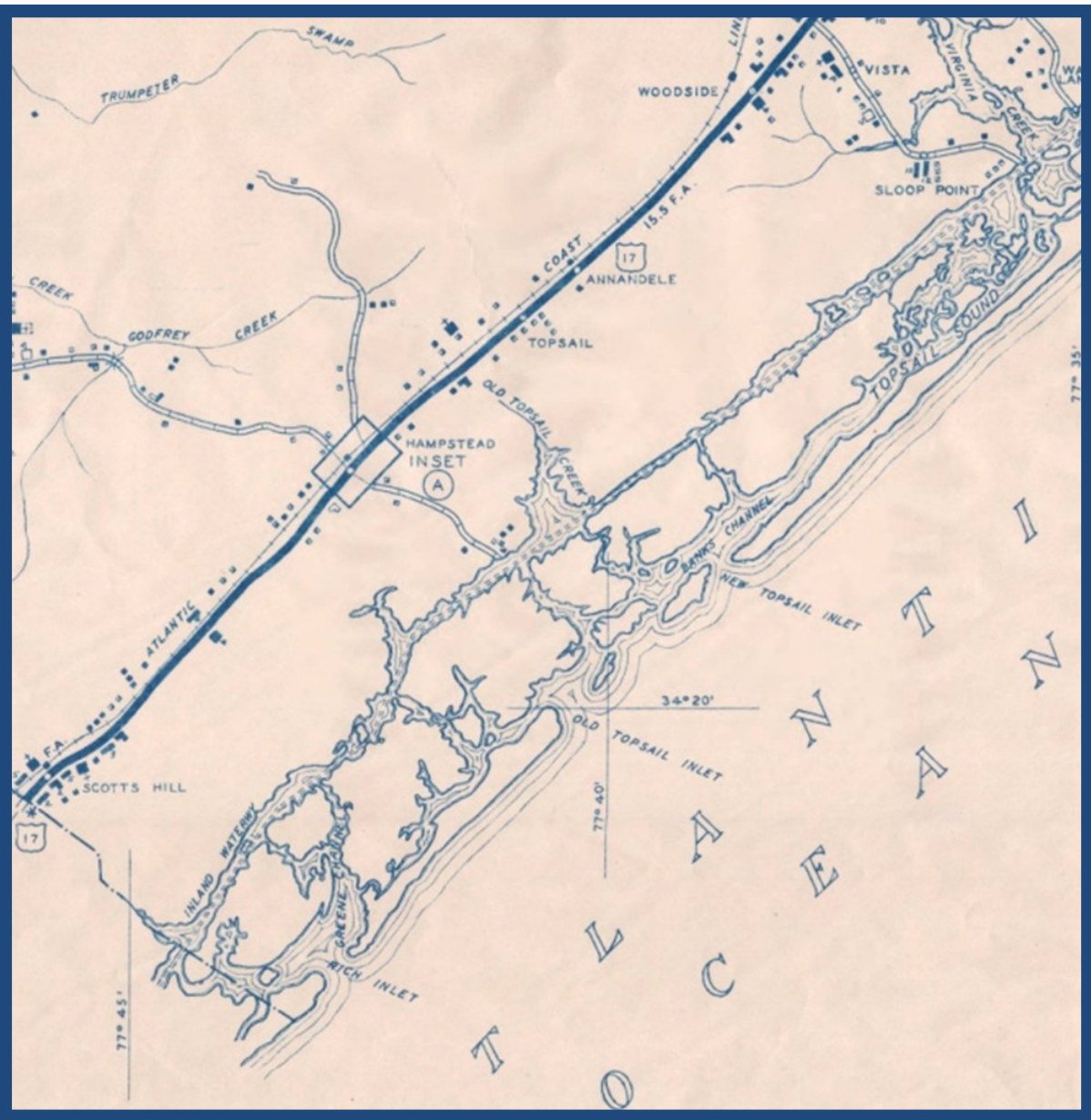
promote the values and traditions of local communities and cultural landscapes as it reflects past, present and future human activity

initiate meaningful dialogue that builds upon the values of respect, empathy, cultural diversity, multiple perspectives, and democratic principles

share the significance and spirit of place as a shared resource by preserving the natural habitat and architectural harmony indigenous to the lower Cape Fear region

The Intimacy of Oppression & a Gesture of Grace

Presented by Caroline C. Lewis
Executive Director
Poplar Grove Foundation, Inc.



This map from a 1938 Federal Works Project outlines Highway 17 and the Atlantic Coastline Railway between Scotts Hill and Topsail Sound. Between the highway and the barrier islands were former plantations predominantly growing peanuts and sweet potatoes.

These plantations—directly north of downtown Wilmington —included salt works, grist mills, brick kilns, mill ponds, and oil mills, and descended from a pre-Revolutionary War planter class, including the Foyes, Nixons, Wards, Simmons, and Rhodes, who purchased slaves directly from Africa to settle the land and build estates and amass a great fortune, from here in Pender County, NC, to St. John's County, Florida, in the production of peanuts, sweet potatoes, rice, indigo, and sea island cotton.

During the Civil War, a map of the area was issued to Union Officers for troop movements to Wilmington. From Sloop Point/Topsail Sound heading south were the plantations of Picket, Burn, Burgyn, Moore, Carr, Howard, St. George, Hansely, Pope and Williams before adjoining the Foy, Bryant and Sidbury plantations on both side of the highway at Scotts Hill/Rich Inlet. South of the Foyes at Poplar Grove were the planters Shepard, Nixon, Davis, Alexander, Everett, Johnson and Colonel Roger Moore.

Slave Schedule

1860 Federal Census Topsail Sound

New Hanover County NC

Joseph Mumford Foy/ J M Foy

Today, descendants of these former enslavers still live along this stretch of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.

And so here at Poplar Grove, we have the planter, Joseph Mumford Foy, direct descendant of James Foy, Sr., who purchased Poplar Grove in 1795. Joseph M. Foy inherited portions of his father's estate, including the original homestead and an allotment of the family's enslaved just as his father before him, and his father before him.

When Joseph M. Foy marries Mary Ann Simmons, of Onslow County, in 1839, the couple's dowry include a few specifically chosen enslaved from their respective families to assist them in setting up their home, and thus keep close the wealth within the family through "natural increase." Between them are 22 enslaved.

Page No. 78

SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in Lepine found in the County of Attitash State of N.H., enumerated by me, on the 14 day of Aug, 1860. H. H. H. Am't Marshal

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	DESCRIPTION.				3 Fugitive from Bond.	4 Number enumerated.	5 Deaf & dumb, blind, lame, or idiotic.	6 No. of slave houses.	NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	DESCRIPTION.				3 Fugitive from Bond.	4 Number enumerated.	5 Deaf & dumb, blind, lame, or idiotic.	6 No. of slave houses.
	1 Age.	2 Sex.	3 Color.	4 Fugitive from Bond.						1 Age.	2 Sex.	3 Color.	4 Fugitive from Bond.				
<u>E. Howard</u>	1	5	2	13					<u>J. M. Fay</u>	1	7	2	13				
	1	5	2	13						1	5	2	13				
	1	1	2	13						1	4	2	13				
	1	1	2	13						1	13	2	13				
	1	21	2	13						1	5	2	13				
	1	2	2	13						1	19	2	13				
	1	46	2	13						1	4	2	13				
	1	31	2	13						1	16	2	13				
	1	3	2	13						1	3	2	13				
	1	29	2	13						1	9	2	13				
	1	30	2	13						1	5	2	13				
	1	28	2	13						1	33	2	13				
	1	25	2	13						1	31	2	13				
	1	27	2	13						1	26	2	13				
	1	31	2	13						1	10	2	13				
1	1	22	2	13						1	2	2	13				
2	1	21	2	13						1	3	2	13				
3	1	21	2	13						1	18	2	13				
4	1	52	2	13						1	2	2	13				
5	1	13	2	13						1	2	2	13				
6	1	19	2	13						1	2	2	13				
7	1	16	2	13						1	2	2	13				
8	1	16	2	13						1	1	2	13				
9	1	14	2	13						1	1	2	13				
10	1	14	2	13						1	1	2	13				
11	1	11	2	13					<u>A. H. Fay & Estate</u>	1	12	2	13				
12	1	9	2	13						1	10	2	13				
13	1	20	2	13					<u>E. & R. R. Co.</u>	1	21	2	13				
14	1	9	2	13						1	56	2	13				
15	1	8	2	13						1	3	2	13				
16	1	12	2	13					<u>C. Phillips</u>	1	45	2	13				
17	1	21	2	13						1	16	2	13				
18	1	17	2	13						1	10	2	13				
19	1	9	2	13						1	4	2	13				
20	1	16	2	13						1	1/2	2	13				
21	1	26	2	13					<u>Baron Deane</u>	1	30	2	13				
22	1	7	2	13						1	6	2	13				
23	1	6	2	13						1	4	2	13				
24	1	5	2	13						1	2	2	13				
25	1	5	2	13						1	1	2	13				

No. of owners.

No. of houses.

No. of male slaves.

No. of female slaves.

Total slaves.

78
42

No. fugitives.

No. enumerated.

No. deaf and dumb.

No. blind.

No. lame.

No. idiotic.

By 1860, Joseph M. Foy will possess 59 slaves through “natural increase” and additional purchases throughout the 1840s and 50s. In the August 30, 1860, Joseph M. Foy writes in “The Country Gentleman” that “the principle crop raised in this vicinity is the pea nut, or ground peas as they are generally called. In my section of the country there are over one hundred thousand bushels raised. We consider them more profitable than cotton, where land is suitable for their culture. They have been a great source of wealth to this section of the country. Good land will produce fifty to seventy-five bushels to the acre” (Johnson 61).

His neighbor and friend, planter Nicholas Nixon adds in the same publication that “the picking and preparing (of peanuts) for market is a tedious and troublesome process, as the best hands will not clean more than two to four bushels per day and those who are inexperienced, not more than half of that” (Johnson 71).



The Foy's of Scotts Hill were part of the 2% gentry class of the entire south, producing two main sources of protein that supplemented the dietary requirements of the enslaved of New Hanover County's 1% planter class.

In short, the Foy's dealt in the service economy of the planter classes, and had been doing so for generations with the talents and skills slaves imported specifically from West Africa — to sow and to reap the “lowly peanut.”

When we think of South Carolina and the lower Cape Fear region of North Carolina, rice first comes to mind. However, the 1860 Slave Population for the Southeastern United States illustrates the number of enslaved in New Hanover and Brunswick Counties, with New Hanover having almost double the population of enslaved as Brunswick County.

The majority of these enslaved populations were located in the northern half of New Hanover County towards Scotts Hill and Sloop Point and Topsail Sound, and west towards Rocky Point, where Nicholas Nixon had another 100+ enslaved out in the peanut fields.

The picture above, dated 1894, are the peanut fields of Joseph Thompson Foy, 2nd son of Joseph M. Foy and inheritor of his parents homestead and surrounding fields that stretched all the way to the inland waterway, two miles east of here.

Inventory of the Estate

of Joseph Mumford Foy

March 31, 1861

Joseph Mumford Foy dies on April 1, 1861. The Civil War begins two weeks later. He is 44 years old, and a wealthy man.

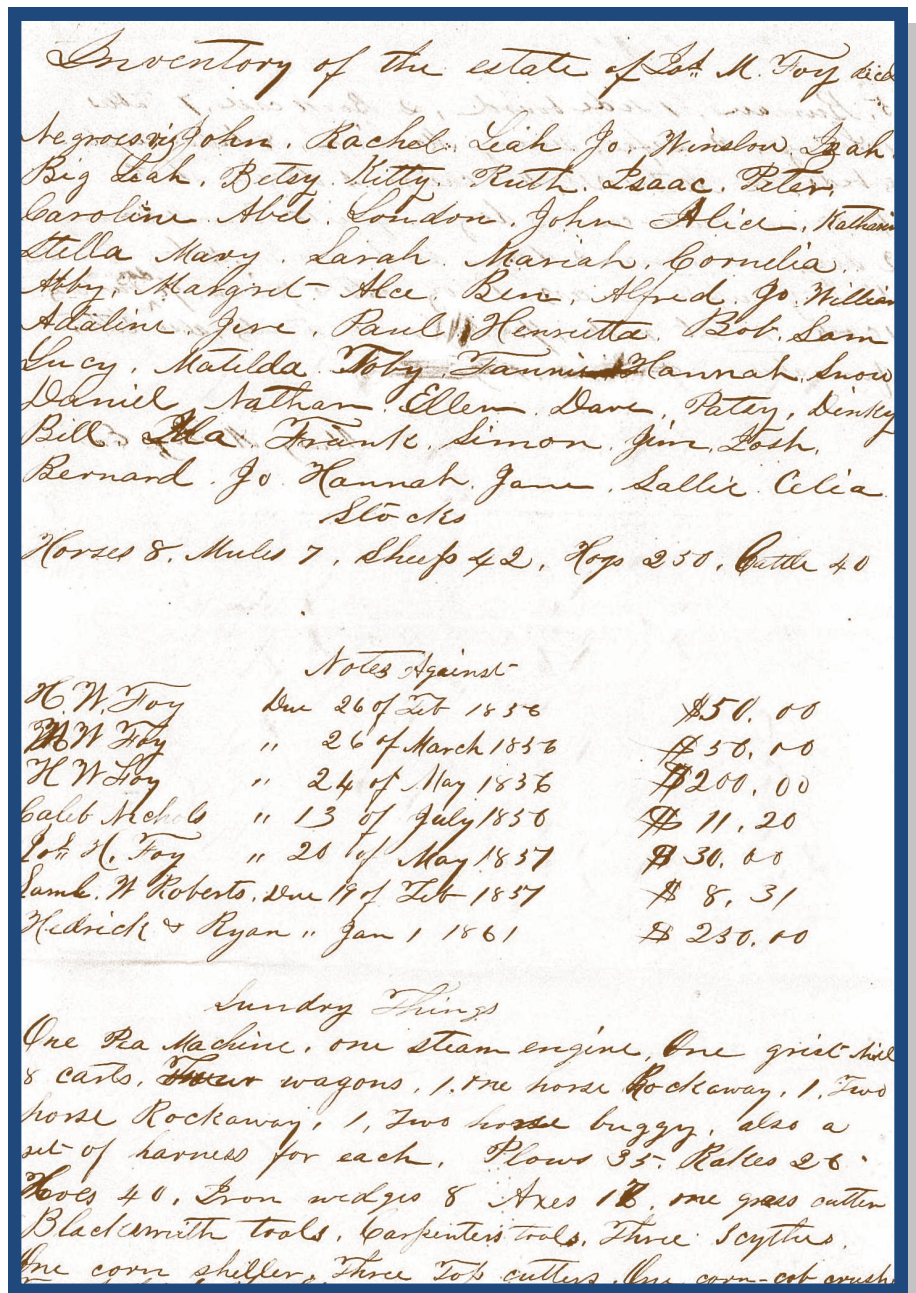
His estate inventory list by first name the following enslaved fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, uncles, aunts, cousins— all of them skilled or soon to be apprenticed craftsmen, artists and farmers.

Their names are **John, Rachel, Leah, Jo, Winslow, Izah, Big Leah, Betsy, Kitty, Ruth, Isaac, Peter, Caroline, Abel, London, John, Alice, Katherine, Stella, Mary, Sarah, Mariah, Cornelia, Abby/Abbe, Margaret, Alice, Ben, Alfred, Jo, William, Adaline, Jere, Paul, Henrietta, Bob, Sam, Lucy, Matilda, Toby, Fannie, Hannah, Snow, Daniel, Nathan, Ellen, Dave, Patsy, Dinky, Bill, Ida, Frank, Simon, Jim, Josh, Bernard, Jo, Hannah, Jane, Sallie, and Celia.**

This community of enslaved tends to 8 horses, 7 mules, 42 sheep, 250 hogs, and 40 cattle.

The more experienced and trained of the enslaved operate "1 pea machine, 1 steam engine, 1 grist mill," and another group of enslaved men and boys care for and repair 8 carts, 4 wagons, 1 one-horse rockaway, 1 two-horse rockaway, 1 two-horse buggy, and also a set of harnesses for each, " and in the fields no less than "35 plows, 26 rakes, 40 hoes, and 17 axes." In the men's possession are "blacksmith tools, carpenter tools," which they use daily but do not own.

The inventory list not only demonstrates the personal wealth of the family but the size and scope of the "farm," in which peanuts, sweet potatoes, and hogs are the main sources of income and managed wholly and expertly by the hands of 59 soon-to-be emancipated individuals. Their forced labor and highly prized skills are publically and financially claimed by their enslavers, while privately their enslavers are completely dependent upon them and indebted to them.





Emma Harper Foy and mother, Mary Jane Harper

1934 , Poplar Grove Foundation, Inc. Collection

Almost 100 years after the death of Joseph Mumford Foy, Poplar Grove was sold in 1971. The property had remained in the same family since 1795—one of the longest privately owned plantation sites in North Carolina, if not in the entire South. It opened as an historic site in 1980, and during that time, descendants of the Foy family were interviewed and recorded to create a tour text.

The focus was primarily on the white Foy family; however, in 1982, two individuals, Karene Manley and Beverly Smalls, interviewed **Nora Foy Brown**, whose mother, **Emma Harper Foy**, and grandmother, **Mary Jane Harper**, worked as domestic servants in the home of Joseph Thompson Foy, and his wife, Nora, whose namesake she shares.

In the interview, **Nora Foy Brown** notes that her daddy “worked in the field, chopped peanuts ... digging sweet potatoes and picking up peanuts ... They’d put them in the barn and shut them ... And they had an old Uncle, named **Mr. Smith**. He had a peanut house, and he’d stack his peanuts in the house in the winter time, and we’d go down there and pick peanuts for 10 cent a bushel and put blankets over them. We used to keep them from getting cold.”

During the course of the interview, Mrs. Brown names various individuals and family units who lived and/or worked at Poplar Grove. She is asked if she remembers “anything about **Israel Jackson** taking things in a wagon, or a truck to town?”

Mrs. Brown affirms: “Uh-huh, uh-huh, taking watermelon, cantaloupes, used to take them in a mule and cart. My daddy used to carry his on a mule and cart, get up at twelve o’clock at night, and load that wagon, and we would go to town, and at daybreak we’d be in Wilmington.” She was sure to distinguish that **Israel Jackson** would get the produce “from **Mr. Foy** and them,” but her father took his own produce down to Market Street.

She attended Williston High School during segregation. She worked at Camp Davis during World War II. She shares her grandmother’s memories of being a little girl, “Oh, they talk about little girls, when they was little girls, and people couldn’t pray. They had to go pray in a pot ... the master wouldn’t let them pray. If he hear them pray, grandmamma would say he would beat them ... but I don’t remember her saying they beat them — her parents.

The interviewer clarifies, “Oh, her parents before them, before **Mary Jane**? Like her mother, and what was her mother’s name again?” Mrs. Brown replies, “We always called her **Maude**, but her name was **Mary Hines**.”

1870 Federal Census

Topsail Sound

New Hanover County NC

Rueben and Mary Hines

And so begins the journey of finding any information on **Mary Hines**, and all the names that **Nora Foy Brown** mentions in her recollections of girlhood spent at Poplar Grove while her mother worked, and tracing those names back to the first names of the 59 enslaved persons in Joseph M. Foy's estate inventory of 1860.

This journey has provided a most puzzling and enriching opportunity to become intimate with the names of the persons who worked along this section of the Corridor, names which cross reference, intersect, and crisscross again between African American families listed on the 1870 Census of the Harnett and Grant Townships — listed before and after the entry of their former white enslaver.

Page No. 34 } Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as /.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Harnett Town Ship, in the County of New Hanover, State of North Carolina, enumerated by me on the 8 day of July, 1870.

Post Office: Wilmington E. L. J. Marshall Marshal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Serial number of dwelling.	Family designated by the order of the serial number.	Name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	Age at last birthday, or date of birth, if under 1 year.	Sex—Males (M), Females (F).	Color—White (W), Black (B), Mulatto (Mu), Indian (In), Chinese (Ch), Japanese (Ja).	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.
267265		Shepherd, Ed.	67	M	B	Farmer			North Carolina										
		"	46	F	B	Keeping house			"										
		"	15	M	B	at home			"										
		"	16	F	B	"			"										
		"	12	M	B	"			"										
		"	10	F	B	"			"										
		"	5	M	B	"			"										
		"	4	F	B	"			"										
		"	16	M	B	"			"										
		"	5	M	B	"			"										
		"	16	M	B	"			"										
267266		Williams, Mark	41	M	B	Farmer			"										
		"	20	F	B	Keeping house			"										
		"	13	M	B	"			"										
		"	1	F	B	"			"										
267267		Roby, Stephen	36	M	B	Fisherman			"										
		"	33	F	B	Keeping house			"										
		"	13	M	B	at home			"										
		"	12	M	B	"			"										
		"	11	M	B	"			"										
267268		Partee, Charlotte	33	M	B	Farmer			"										
		"	40	F	B	Keeping house			"										
		"	20	M	B	at home			"										
		"	4	M	B	"			"										
		"	3	F	B	"			"										
267269		Hines, Ruben	52	M	B	Fisherman			"										
		"	23	F	B	Keeping house			"										
		"	16	M	B	at home			"										
		"	10	M	B	"			"										
		"	4	M	B	"			"										
		"	1	F	B	"			"										
270270		Cannell, Mary	45	F	B	Keeping house			"										
		"	21	M	B	at home			"										
		"	14	F	B	"			"										
		"	16	M	B	"			"										
		"	11	F	B	"			"										
271271		Pedrick, Owen	30	M	B	Farmer			"										
		"	16	F	B	Keeping house			"										
		"	2	M	B	at home			"										

No. of dwellings, 4. No. of white females, 23. No. of males, foreign born, 0.
 " " families, 4. " " colored males, 16. " " females, " "
 " " white males, 2. " " " females, 11. " " blind, 0.

Because census taking was literally conducted door-to-door in 1870, in 1880 and in 1890, some families are easily located, while others disappear, and others still - reappearing in places like Chicago, Ohio, Texas, California, and Florida.

But **Mary Hines**? I started with her first, because we have a photograph of her daughter and grand-daughter, and a recording of the voice of her great-granddaughter. And there listed in the 1870 Census of Topsail Township, New Hanover County, is Ruben Hines, Fisherman, and his wife, Mary Hines, with six children listed in their household.

Mary Hines was a born a slave among these coastal waterways and sandy loomy soil, and the extended family of her enslavers owned her cousins, her brothers, her sisters — and some of them lived on the same plantation for life, and some of them were bequeathed to the sons and daughters of her enslavers who may have lived right next door, or sent a little further north along the coast, or a little further south, sometimes within walking distance, but oftentimes to the NC interior and its tobacco fields.

D.

Page No. 32

Supervisor's Dist. No. 3

Enumeration Dist. No. 157

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1870, and ends May 31, 1880.

Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.

Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in Grant Township, in the County of Pender, State of NC

enumerated by me on the 23rd day of June, 1880.

P. O. Brown

No. of Family	Name of Head of Family	Relationship to Head of Family	Age	Sex	Color	Married	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Deceased	Place of Birth	Place of Birth of Father	Place of Birth of Mother	Place of Birth of Grandfather	Place of Birth of Grandmother	Place of Birth of Great-grandfather	Place of Birth of Great-grandmother	Place of Birth of Great-great-grandfather	Place of Birth of Great-great-grandmother
292 308	William Hiley	B	21	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	George Hiley	B	20	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Charles Hiley	B	23	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
293 317	John Hiley	B	25	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Caroline	B	48	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
294 308	Marick Harry	B	48	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Eliza	B	49	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Elizabeth	B	12	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Elizabeth	B	19	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
295 379	John Hiley	B	24	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
296 310	Marion Eliza	B	27	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Mary	B	20	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Charles	B	3	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Eliza	B	1	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
297 311	Hall William	B	23	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Mary	B	23	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Eliza	B	4	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Rebecca	B	5	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
299 312	Morris Mack	B	43	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Ann	B	35	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
299 313	Foy Joseph	B	33	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Nora	B	29	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Willie	B	18	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
300 314	Walker John	B	23	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Rebecca	B	43	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	John	B	5	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
300 315	Emmie Vesta	B	45	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Hall John	B	20	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Infant	B	5	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Merriek Willie	B	9	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Huggins Geo	B	20	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
301 316	Hines Nelson	B	23	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Betsy	B	21	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	David	B	21	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
302 317	Hines Leiston	B	21	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Nora	B	19	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	John	B	17	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
303 318	Redick Violet	B	10	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Leaac	B	18	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Holden	B	11	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Queen	B	10	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Sal	B	4	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Empire	B	2	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Nelson	B	2	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
304 319	Hines Elias	B	23	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Mariah	B	22	F	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Alvance	B	5	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	David	B	2	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	John	B	1	M	W						NC	NC	NC						
	Mary	B	10	F	W						NC	NC	NC						

Source: 1.—In making entries in columns 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

1880 Federal Census

Grant Township

Pender County, NC

Mary Jane Hines

Between the 1870 and 1880 Federal Census, New Hanover County—in a gross act of gerrymandering, splits the largest population of black male suffrage in Northern New Hanover County into Pender County in 1875.

In an attempt to destabilize black political and economic power in Wilmington, the largest population of former slaves are split from the city center.

The new county line of Pender borders the property line of one Mary Ann Simmons Foy of Scotts Hill, a professed Unionist throughout the Civil War, and head of her household in 1870, and whose former slave, Winslow Nixon, had joined the US Colored Troops in 1864, and who returns to start his family in Scotts Hill.

Ms. Mary Ann Foy is by no means destitute after the Civil War, nor does her home become confiscated like the home of the Bellamys in downtown Wilmington. She dies on Christmas Eve, 1875, made fully aware of her status in a planter class of staunch Confederates seeking to take back power by subdividing her property.

In the 1880 Federal Census, the tenant families living and working on this former matriarch's property continue to farm under the supervision of her 2nd son, Joseph Thompson Foy (33), and his wife, Nora (29).

Six doors down on the 1880 Census, Mary Jane Hines (10

NAME *James Harper*
 COLORED.

CERTIFICATE.

To be filled up and signed by the Minister or officer celebrating the marriage, and also to be signed by one or more witnesses present at the marriage, who will add to their names their place of residence.

I, *H. B. Anderson* Minister
 of *Ep. Church South* united in matrimony
 Mr. *James Harper*
 and M. *Mary Jane Hines*
 the parties licensed on the *22* day of *Jan.* 1891
 at the house of *Brides Father* *New Hanover Co.*
 according to law.

H. B. Anderson

WITNESSES PRESENT:

Name *James Livingston Scott Hill* Residence *NC*
 Name Residence
 Name Residence
 Name Residence

Marriage Certificates and Licenses have been an invaluable resource. For instance, this certificate lists Mary Jane Hines and her new husband, James Harper. They married at the house of the bride's father in New Hanover County on January 22, 1891.

Intimate details are revealed in these marriage certificates and marriage licenses, oftentimes including the names of the bride and groom's parents, witnesses to the ceremony, ages, locations of ceremonies, names of churches, and names of ministers.

Notably, the names Mary, Patsy, and Nora are so common in the Scotts Hill area that only repeated viewing of multiple documents can ascertain which mother or daughter belongs to which family group. This is also true of the men as well, except perhaps for the addition of Junior or Senior.

Further information is revealed on the Marriage License of Mary Jane Hines. R.K. Bryant, son of a former enslaver, neighbor and friend of Joseph Thompson Foy, applies for the license.

The groom, James Harper, is from Scotts Hill, age 24, and the son of John Harper and Julia Futch, who reside in Rocky Point, NC.

The bride, Mary Jane, is from New Hanover County, age 17, and the daughter of Reuben and Mary Hines, living in New Hanover County.

Because the bride is under the age of eighteen, she must have the consent of a parent. Her mother, Mary Hines, provides consent. The license fee is \$3.00, and gives them one year to marry in the county of New Hanover.

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

To any Ordained Minister of any Religious Denomination, or to any Justice of the Peace, for New Hanover County.

Mr. R. K. Bryant Jr. having applied to me for a license for the marriage of Mr. James Harper of Scotts Hill Pender County aged 24 years, color Colored the son of John Harper and Julia Futch living in Rocky Point and Miss Mary Jane Hines of New Hanover County aged 17 years, color Colored daughter of Reuben Hines and Mary Hines living in New Hanover County

It appearing that M. Mary Jane Hines one of the parties is under eighteen years of age, and written consent of her Mother to the proposed marriage having been duly filed with me in accordance with Sec. 6 of An Act of the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, entitled "An Act concerning Marriages, Marriage Settlements and the Contracts of Married Women," ratified the 12th day of February, 1872, and there being no legal impediment known to me,

YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED, WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE DATE HEREOF, TO CELEBRATE THE PROPOSED MARRIAGE AT ANY place within the county of New Hanover.

You are required, within two months after you shall have celebrated the proposed marriage, to return this license to me, at my office with the blanks therein filled according to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting Two Hundred Dollars to the use of any person who shall sue for the same.

Issued this 20th day of January, 1891

John Hagan Jr.
Register of Deeds for New Hanover County.

Fee, \$ 3.00
1.00

Last Will & Testament

Nora Dozier Foy

22 I want my wearing apparel to
12 be taken in charge by my sister and
13 Bettie Foy, packed by them, in a box
14 and sent to the Salvation ^{Army}, except the pieces
15 that are worn. Then I want divided
16 between Mary Jane Harper & Mary Eliza
17 Taylor, if they prove faithful to me.
18 Under the same conditions I want
19 Mary Eliza Taylor to have the Bureau
20 with square glass in spare room and
21 Mary Jane Harper to have bedstead
22 in room over the dining room
23 also the springs on bedstead.

Because the enslaved are bequeathed by name, generation after generation, in the Last Wills and Testaments of extended Foy family members between Wilmington, and New Bern, NC, their family trees continue to contract with more specific detail and expand by successive marriages, births, and deaths.

Further research will determine when Mary Jane Harper begins employment under Nora Foy, wife of Joseph Thompson Foy, but most likely after her marriage to James Harper in 1891.

Nora D. Foy dies a widow on January 12, 1923, and lists possessions in her Last Will and Testament and a desire to divide any usable articles of clothing "between Mary Jane Harper and Mary Eliza Taylor, "if they prove faithful to me."

Further, and "Under the same conditions I want Mary Eliza Taylor to have the bureau with four square glass in spare room and Mary Jane Harper to have the bedstead in room over the dining room - also the springs on the bedstead."

I cannot comment on how common it is for an employer, or "mistress" of the home, to mention her domestic servants in a Last Will and Testament, but it does highlight at the very least the fondness she had for these two women, Mary Jane Harper and Mary Eliza Taylor, and also her suspicion that it was perhaps not reciprocated.

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. The correct age is especially important. PHYSICIANS: Please write the causes of death clearly and legibly.

B. V. R. Form 8		NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS		347	
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH					
1. PLACE OF DEATH:				Registration Dist. No. <u>35-90</u> Certificate No. <u>2</u>	
(a) County <u>New Hanover.</u>					
(b) Township _____ (If in town limits, leave blank)					
(c) City or town <u>Wilmington.</u> (If outside city or town limits, write RURAL)					
(d) Street, hospital or institution <u>J.W.M. Hospital.</u>					
(e) Length of stay in hospital or institution <u>15 Days.</u> (Yrs., mos., or days)					
In this community _____ (Yrs., mos., or days)					
2. HOME (USUAL RESIDENCE) OF DECEASED:					
(a) State <u>N.C.</u> (b) County <u>New Hanover</u>					
(c) City or town <u>Scott's Hill.</u>					
(d) Street or R.F.D. _____					
(e) Is place of residence in corporate limits? <u>NO.</u>					
(f) If foreign born, how long in U.S.A.? <u>yes</u>					
3(a) FULL NAME <u>Mary Jane Harper.</u>					
3(b) If veteran, name war _____ 3(c) Social Security No. _____					
4. Sex <u>Female.</u> 5. Color or Race <u>Colored.</u> 6(a) Single, married, widowed, or divorced. <u>Married.</u>					
6(b) Name of husband or wife <u>James Harper.</u>					
(c) Age of husband or wife if alive _____ years.					
7. Birth date of deceased <u>Sept. 10, 1872.</u> (month, day and year)					
8. AGE: Years <u>69</u> Months <u>3</u> Days <u>22</u> If less than one day hrs. _____ min.					
9. Birthplace <u>New Hanover Co., N.C.</u> (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)					
10. Usual occupation <u>Housewife.</u>					
11. Industry or business <u>6000</u>					
12. Name <u>Reuben Hines.</u>					
13. Birthplace <u>New Hanover Co., N.C.</u>					
14. Maiden Name <u>Mary Douglas.</u>					
15. Birthplace <u>Virginia.</u>					
16(a) Informant's Signature <u>Jama Harper</u>					
(b) Address <u>Scott's Hill, N.C.</u>					
17(a) <u>Burial</u> (b) Date thereof <u>1/4th/42</u> (Month, day, year)					
(c) Cemetery _____					
(d) Location <u>Scott's Hill N. C.</u>					
18(a) Funeral director <u>Robert H. Scott</u>					
(b) Address <u>City</u>					
19(a) <u>1-4</u> 1942 (b) <u>A.H. Scott</u> Registrar					
20. Date of death <u>January 1, 1942, at 2:15 P.</u>					
21. I certify that death occurred on the date above stated; that I attended deceased from <u>Dec. 17, 1941, to Jan. 1, 1942</u> and that I last saw her alive on <u>January 1, 1942</u>					
Immediate cause of death <u>Cerebral Hemorrhage</u> Duration <u>1 wk.</u>					
Due to <u>Arteriosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease with Hypertension</u> Yr.					
Due to _____					
Other conditions <u>Secondary Hemiplegia</u> (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)					
Major findings: Of operations <u>None</u> Physician _____ Underline if cause to which death should be charged statistically					
Of autopsy <u>None</u>					
22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:					
(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____					
(b) Date of occurrence _____					
(c) Where did injury occur? (City or town) (County) (State) _____					
(d) Did injury occur about home, on farm, in industrial place, in a public place? (Specify type of place) _____					
While at work? _____					
(e) Means of injury _____					
23. Signature <u>Jama Harper</u> M.					
Address <u>Wilmington, N.C.</u> signed <u>1-3-42</u>					

Mary Jane Harper lives another 20 years after the death of her mistress, Nora Foy. Research reveals that her daughter, Emma Harper, marries David Foy. They have several children, including twin girls, one of which does not survive. Later, another girl is born and named Nora Foy. The intimacy of oppression under the supervision of her former employer and now his nephew, Robert Lee Foy, Sr. leads to this small gesture of grace.

Robert Lee Foy, Sr. continues to employ both Mary Jane Harper and Emma Harper Foy, and soon the Depression will strike, and the farm becomes harder and harder to maintain. Still, families lived on seafood, cured pork, corn bread, biscuits, and Hoppin' John, according to Robert Lee Foy, Jr.

Mary Jane Harper dies January 1, 1942. Her parents are listed as Reuben Hines and Mary Douglas.

Mary Jane's husband, James Harper, dies on April 15, 1944. He is 61 years old, and listed as a farmer. His granddaughter, Lenora Pridgett, is the informant. She does not know the parents of her grandfather, and so they are listed as FATHER: Unknown; MOTHER: Unknown.

And this unknowing is how I began this journey. What could we ever know about the lives of the enslaved? Of these 59 unnamed men, women and children in the 1860 Federal Census? The task seemed not just daunting but impossible.

When the Harpers die, their entire history seems buried with them in Pollocks Cemetery, just across the street, and a little shy over the Pender County line. No doubt, their history was buried very purposefully on one side of the road, while kept very privately on the other of the road.

The segregated train depot across the street, the segregated buses coming up Highway 17 to Jacksonville — this history is our history, and it may have taken Poplar Grove 40 years since its opening in 1980, but we do know the name of James Harper parents now—they are John Harper and Julia Futch, and they lived west of here in Rocky Point, NC.

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS**

MAY 10 1944 **CERTIFICATE OF DEATH** **8351**

Registration Dist. No. **65-90** Certificate No. **222**

1. PLACE OF DEATH:
(a) County **New Hanover**
(b) Township _____
(c) City or town **Shiloh**
(d) Street, hospital or institution **Community Hosp.**
(e) Length of stay in hospital or institution **14 days**
In this community **14 days**

2. HOME (USUAL RESIDENCE) OF DECEASED:
(a) State **N.C.** (b) County **N. Han.**
(c) City or town **Shiloh**
(d) Street or R.F.D. **Rte. 1 - Box 2247**
(e) Is place of residence in corporate limits? **No**
(f) If foreign born, how long in U.S.A. **7** years.

3(a) FULL NAME **James Harper**
3(b) If veteran, name war _____ **3(c) Social Security No.** _____

4. Sex **Male** **5. Color or Race** **Col.** **6(a) Single, married, widowed, or divorced** **Married**

6(b) Name of husband or wife **Mary J. Harper**
(c) Age of husband or wife if alive _____ years.

7. Birth date of deceased **April 15, 1883**
(month, day and year)

8. AGE: Years **61** Months _____ Days _____ If less than one day hrs. _____ min. _____

9. Birthplace **New Hanover Co., N.C.**
(City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

10. Usual occupation **Farmer**

11. Industry or business _____

12. Name **Unknown**
13. Birthplace **Unknown**

14. Maiden Name **Unknown**
15. Birthplace **Unknown**

16(a) Informant's Signature **Lenora Pridgett**
(b) Address **Shiloh Rte. 1 - Box 2247**

17(a) Burial **Pollock Cemetery** **(b) Date thereof** **4/18/44**
(Month, day, year)

(c) Cemetery **Pollock Cemetery**
(d) Location **New Hanover Co.**

18(a) Funeral director **W. H. Allen, Jr.**
(b) Address **City**

19(a) Filed **4/18/44** **(b) Registrar** **A. H. Elliott**

20. Date of death **April 15, 1944** **at** **9:15 P.M.**

21. I certify that death occurred on the date above stated; that I attended deceased from April 3, 1944, to April 15, 1944, and that I last saw him alive on April 15, 1944.

Immediate cause of death **Chronic Nephritis** **Duration** _____

Due to **Uremia**

Due to **131**

Other conditions _____
(Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)

Major findings:
Of operations _____
Of autopsy _____

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:
(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____
(b) Date of occurrence _____
(c) Where did injury occur? _____
(City or town) (County) (State)
(d) Did injury occur about home, on farm, in industrial plant, in a public place? _____
(Specify type of place)
While at work? _____
(e) Means of injury _____

23. Signature **J. H. Pridgett** **M.D.**
Address **Shiloh Rte. 1 - Box 2247** **Date signed** **4-17-44**

PHYSICIANS:

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD.
Every item of information should be carefully supplied. The correct age is especially important. Please write the causes of death clearly and legibly.

There are now approximately 10 family trees from the names of the enslaved, and there are more folders with the beginnings of others, in an effort to name the names of the African American families who lived and are still living along this coastline in Pender County.

Descended from slaves imported from Africa to grow peanuts, through apprenticeships passed from father to son, mother to daughter, these men and women understood the value of their art and craft, of science and engineering, fishing and hunting, carpentry and brick-making, timber harvesting, millwork, weaving, basketry, and producing crops that would feed the masses.

These men and women had agency despite the heavy cloak of oppression by their enslavers, because they had community, had family, had a network of support. These men and women knew intimately the inland waterways and estuaries of their great-grandparents, received and communicated the latest information from Haiti, Jamaica, Brazil, London, Baltimore, Charleston, New York, and as soon as they were free, took with them all of their intellect, all of their skills, to open businesses, run for political office, finance homes; they were bankers, lawyers, doctors, teachers, barbers, laundresses, students, living and working in the very place they had lived for two centuries in New Hanover and Pender Counties, and like that, in one day, in downtown Wilmington, NC, on November 11, 1898 were massacred, so great was their influence in building community in their community.

There names are in family photo albums, in gravesites, in Bibles, on photographs, on deeds, on certificates, on diplomas — this isn't just the material for one Gullah exhibit in one room at Poplar Grove, this is material that we want to display on a massive scale.

And it must be a collaborative effort, because I am only one point of view, among many, among us are descendants whose history needs to be shared, deserved to be shared and celebrated, and I thank you for allowing me this time today to share a little about what has been whispering in these trees, in the walls of that manor house, on the floors of that tenant house, and in the streets of downtown Wilmington.

In the words of Joseph Mumford Foy, *Union Forever*. Come see that big house after this meeting, and see what the hands of a few very skilled men built from the ground up. On a side note, it should look somewhat familiar—the plans and materials of plantation homes constructed in the 1850s along the Corridor have similar features. Poplar Grove's manor house is almost identical to the McLeod Plantation in Charleston, SC, without being turned about to face another direction.

For more information, please visit our website, [www. poplargrove.org](http://www.poplargrove.org), where there is so much more than these few minutes I have shared with you.

Thank you, and welcome again to Poplar Grove.