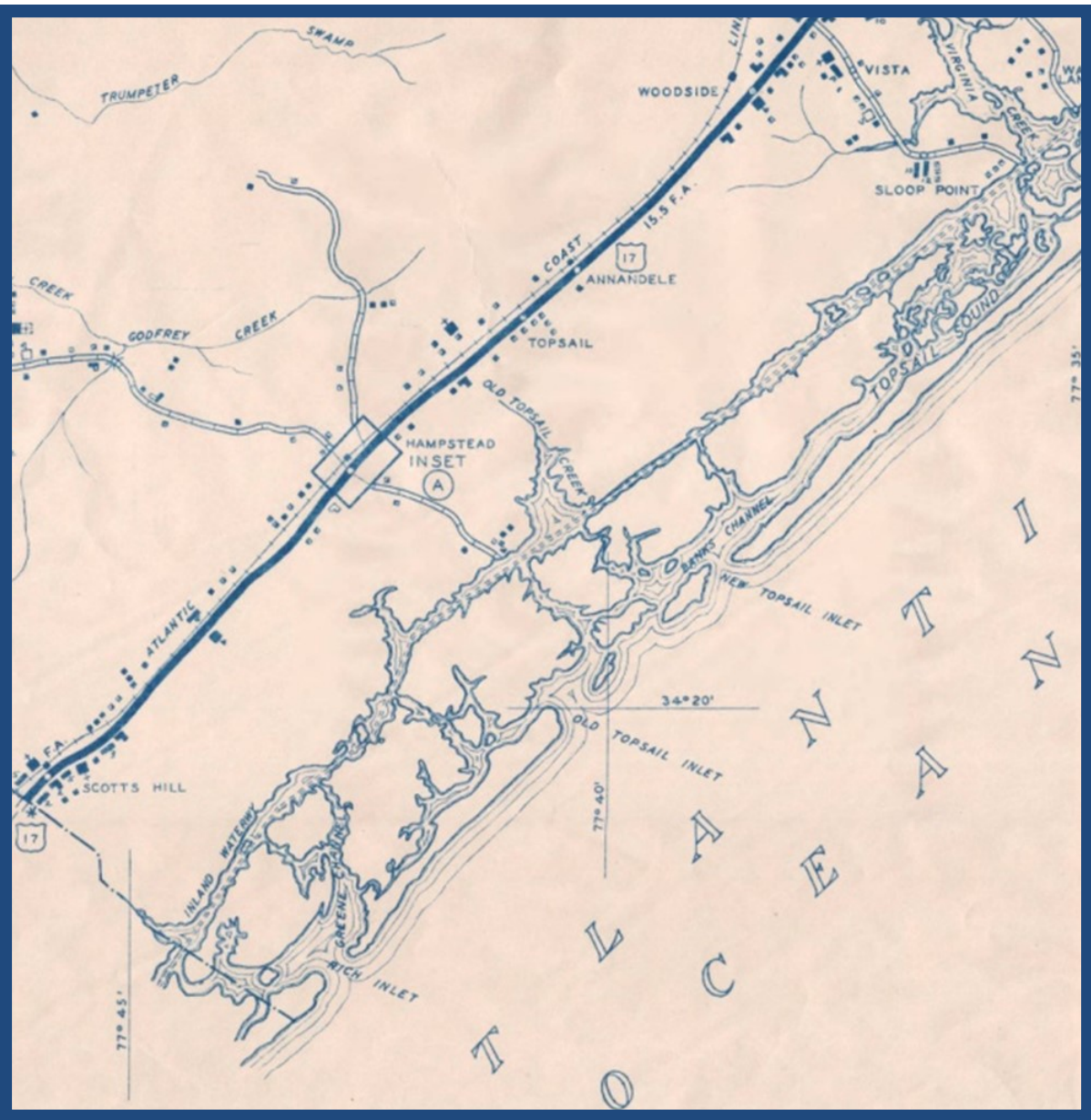


THE INTIMACY OF OPPRESSION
& A GESTURE OF GRACE

August 17, 2019

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 Moores, Harnetts, Claytons, Nixons, Foyes, Wards, Simmons, and Rhodes, who purchased enslaved from via Jamaica and Barbados from the port of Charleston, to settle the land, build estates and amass a great fortune. From here in Pender County, NC, to St. John’s County, Florida, the enslaved communities of the Gullah Geechee produced rice, indigo, sea island cotton, peanuts and sweet potatoes.

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 Sidsbury plantations on both sides 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 formerly enslaved still live along this stretch of the GULLAH GEECHEE CULTURAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR.

And here at Poplar Grove, we examine the history of the planter, Joseph Mumford Foy, direct descendant of James Foy, Jr., 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 and thereby "natural increase." Between them are 22 enslaved on the 1840 US Slave Schedule.

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SCHEDULE 2—Slave Inhabitants in *Lebanon Sound* in the County of *New Hanover* State of *N.C.*, enumerated by me, on the *14* day of *Aug.*, 1860. *J. H. Foy, Asst. Marshal.*

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	DESCRIPTION.				Total	Deaf & dumb, blind, lame, or idiotic.	No. of Slave Inhabitants.	NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	DESCRIPTION.				Total	Deaf & dumb, blind, lame, or idiotic.	No. of Slave Inhabitants.
	Male	Female	Color	Age					Male	Female	Color	Age			
<i>E. Howard</i>	1	5	2	13											
	1	5	2	13											
	1	1	2	13											
	1	1	2	13											
	1	21	2	13											
	1	2	2	13											
<i>J. M. Foy</i>	1	66	2	13											
	1	31	2	13											
	1	3	2	13											
	1	29	2	13											
	1	30	2	13											
	1	21	2	13											
	1	25	2	13											
	1	27	2	13											
	1	31	2	13											
	1	22	2	13											
	1	21	2	13											
	1	21	2	13											
	1	52	2	13											
	1	18	2	13											
	1	19	2	13											
	1	16	2	13											
	1	16	2	13											
	1	14	2	13											
	1	14	2	13											
	1	11	2	13											
	1	9	2	13											
	1	20	2	13											
	1	9	2	13											
	1	8	2	13											
	1	12	2	13											
	1	21	2	13											
	1	17	2	13											
	1	9	2	13											
	1	16	2	13											
	1	26	2	13											
	1	7	2	13											
	1	6	2	13											
	1	5	2	13											
	1	5	2	13											

No. of owners, _____ No. of males, _____ No. of females, _____ Total slaves, _____
 No. of houses, _____ No. of 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).



Peanut Field of J. T. Foy, Scott's Hill, on the line of the Wilmington, New Bern & Norfolk R. R.—near Wilmington, N. C.

The Foy's of Scotts Hill were part of the 2% gentry class of the entire south owning 20 or more enslaved, producing two main sources of protein that supplemented the dietary requirements of the enslaved of New Hanover County's 1% planter class, and a source of protein to fatten hogs before slaughter.

In short, the Foy's fortune was in service to the planters of rice, cotton and tobacco, and they had been doing so for generations with the talents and skills of an enslaved population imported specifically from West Africa to the Ashley and Cooper Rivers of South Carolina to grow rice and indigo, and 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. The plantations along the mouth of the Cape Fear River in Brunswick County were more closely aligned with the plantations systems of Georgetown and Charleston, SC. 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, and this larger population of enslaved were not producing rice, but peanuts.

The majority of these enslaved populations were located in the northern half of New Hanover County towards Scotts Hill and Sloop Point, known as Topsail Sound, and west towards Rocky Point and Moore's Creek, along the northeast branch of the Cape Fear River, 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 at Poplar Grove. The fields stretched all the way from Highway 17 to the inland waterway, less than two miles east of the manor house.

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.

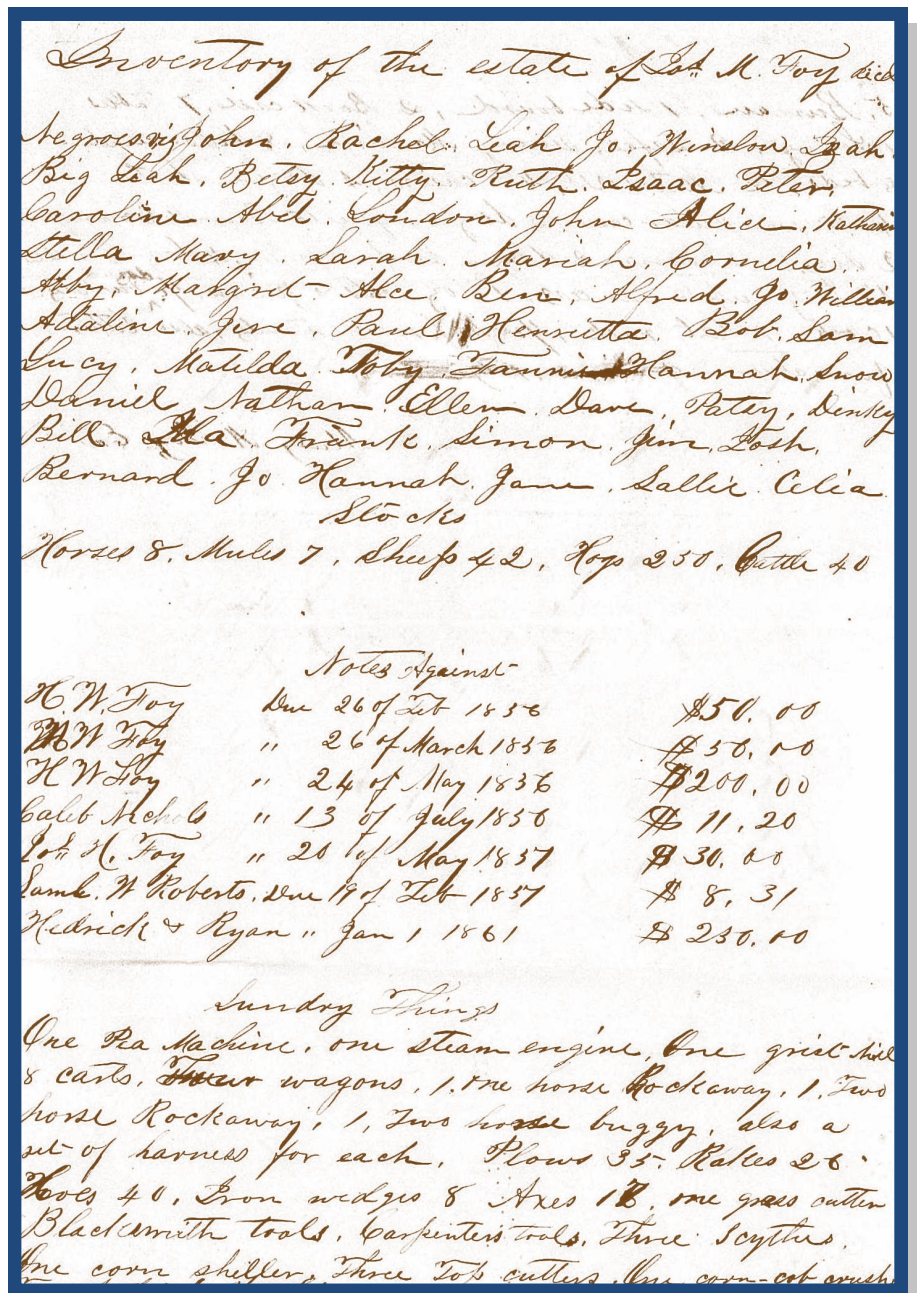
His estate inventory lists by first name the following enslaved fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, uncles, aunts, cousins— all of them skilled or soon to be apprenticed craftsmen, artists and farmers.

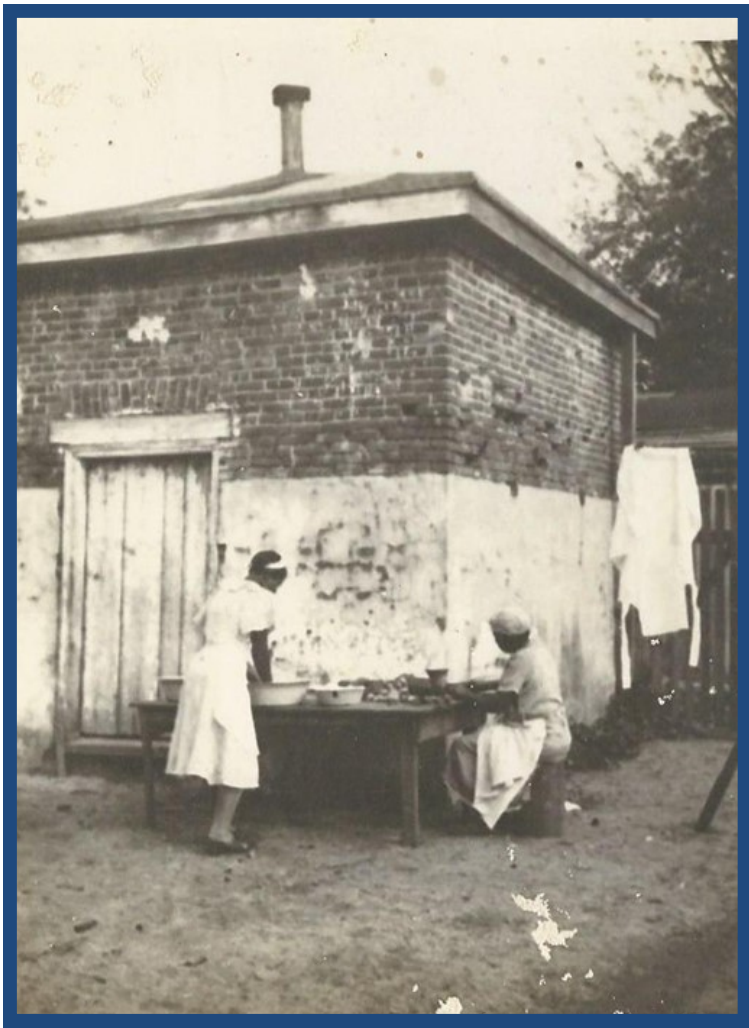
Their names are **John, Rachel, Leah, Jo, Winslow, Izah, Big Leah, Betsy, Kitty, Ruth, Isaac, Peter, Caroline, Abel, London, John, Alice, Katherine, Stella, Mary, Sarah, Mariah, Cornelia, Abby/Abbe, Margaret, Alice, Ben, Alfred, Jo, William, Adaline, Jere, Paul, Henrietta, Bob, Sam, Lucy, Matilda, Toby, 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 claimed by their enslavers as the business acumen of the white males, while privately these enslavers are completely dependent upon the knowledge, resources, and skills of their enslaved labor force.





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 Foy 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 tape recorded to create a tour text draft.

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 also 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. Could we trace those names back to the first names of the 59 enslaved persons in Joseph M. Foy's estate inventory of 1860? Yes.

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 first listed by name on the 1870 Census of the Harnett and Grant Townships of New Hanover County — and listed before and after the entry of their former white enslavers.

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. J. Marshall Marshal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
							8	9		11	12								
The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.			SEX AND AGE			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE		Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	PLANTATIONS		Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	EDUCATION		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.	
Male	Female	Age	Color	Value of land	Value of personal estate		Owned	Rent		Could read	Could write								
1	26	265	Shepherd	62	M	B	Farmer			North Carolina									
2	"	"	Abby	46	F	B	Keeping house			"									
3	"	"	Oliver	18	M	B	at home			"									
4	"	"	Ellen	16	F	B	"			"									
5	"	"	Carrie	12	F	B	"			"									
6	"	"	John	10	M	B	"			"									
7	"	"	Man	5	M	B	"			"									
8	"	"	Rebecca	6	F	B	"			"									
9	"	"	George	5	M	B	"			"									
10	"	"	Joseph	16	M	B	"			"									
11	26	266	William	46	M	B	Farmer			"									
12	"	"	Lucia	20	F	B	Keeping house			"									
13	"	"	Alfred	5	M	B	"			"									
14	"	"	Lucy	1	F	B	"			"									
15	26	267	Robt	36	M	B	Fisherman			"									
16	"	"	Mary	33	F	B	Keeping house			"									
17	"	"	Samuel	13	M	B	at home			"									
18	"	"	Lucy	12	F	B	"			"									
19	"	"	John	11	M	B	"			"									
20	26	268	Patience	33	F	B	Farmer			"									
21	"	"	Lucia	40	F	B	Keeping house			"									
22	"	"	Henrietta	20	F	B	at home			"									
23	"	"	Valton	4	M	B	"			"									
24	"	"	Rosie	3	F	B	"			"									
25	26	269	James	52	M	B	Fisherman			"									
26	"	"	Mary	23	F	B	Keeping house			"									
27	"	"	Alfred	16	M	B	at home			"									
28	"	"	Carrie	10	F	B	"			"									
29	"	"	John	8	M	B	"			"									
30	"	"	Edward	4	M	B	"			"									
31	"	"	Notie	3	F	B	"			"									
32	"	"	Ellen	1	F	B	"			"									
33	27	270	Samuel	46	M	B	Keeping house			"									
34	"	"	Rebecca	21	F	B	at home			"									
35	"	"	Rebecca	17	F	B	"			"									
36	"	"	Carrie	16	F	B	"			"									
37	"	"	Lucy	14	F	B	"			"									
38	27	271	Pedrick	30	M	B	Farmer			"									
39	"	"	St George	16	M	B	Keeping house			"									
40	"	"	August	2	M	B	at home			"									

No. of dwellings, 4. No. of white females, 23. No. of males, foreign born, 0.
 " " families, 4. " " colored males, 18. " " 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, Baltimore, 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, Nora Foy Brown. 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 the sandy loomy soil, in which peanuts grew so well, and the extended family of her enslavers owned her parents, her brothers, her sisters, her cousins — 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 lived right next door, or a little further north along the coast, or a little further south, sometimes within walking distance, and sometimes to the NC interior and its tobacco fields.

D.

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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	Age	Sex	Color	Marital Status	Profession, Occupation or Trade	Health	Education	Native
292 306	William Hilkey	13	M	W		works on farm			NC
	St. George Marley	13	M	W		works on farm			NC
	Charles Marley	13	M	W		Cook			NC
293 317	Edwin Henderson	13	M	W		works on farm			NC
	Caroline	13	F	W	wife	Keeps house			NC
294 308	Marick Harry	13	M	W		works on farm			NC
	Eliza	13	F	W	wife	Keeps house			NC
	Elizabeth	13	F	W					NC
	Carroll Emily	13	F	W		works on farm			NC
295 309	Edwin Howard	13	M	W		works on farm			NC
296 310	Mason Elbert	13	M	W		clothing & grocery			NC
	Mary J	13	F	W	wife	Keeps house			NC
	Charles	13	M	W	son				NC
	Rebecca	13	F	W	son				NC
297 311	Hall William	13	M	W		Minister			NC
	Mary C	13	F	W	wife	Keeps house			NC
	William	13	M	W	son				NC
	Rebecca	13	F	W	daughter				NC
298 312	Morris Mack	13	M	W		works on farm			NC
	Ann	13	F	W	wife	Keeps house			NC
299 313	Foy Joseph	13	M	W		farmer			NC
	Nora	13	F	W	wife	Keeps house			NC
	Hicks Willie	13	M	W	son	works on farm			NC
300 314	Walker Lou	13	F	W		works on farm			NC
	Lease	13	F	W	mother	Keeps house			NC
	Lou	13	F	W	son				NC
301 315	Emmie Vasta	13	F	W		Keeps house			NC
	Hall Della	13	F	W	daughter	works on farm			NC
	Infant	13	F	W	son				NC
	Marick Willie	13	M	W	son				NC
	Huggins Geo	13	M	W	son				NC
301 316	Hines Nelson	13	M	W		works on farm			NC
	Betsy	13	F	W	wife	Keeps house			NC
	David	13	M	W	son				NC
302 317	Hines Leiston	13	M	W		works on farm			NC
	Nora	13	F	W	wife	Keeps house			NC
	Infant	13	F	W	son				NC
303 318	Kedrick Veslet	13	M	W		works on farm			NC
	Lease	13	F	W	son	works on farm			NC
	Holden	13	M	W	son	works on farm			NC
	Queen	13	F	W	son				NC
	Jal	13	M	W	son				NC
	Empire	13	F	W	son				NC
	Nelson	13	M	W	son				NC
304 319	Hines Elias	13	M	W		works on farm			NC
	Mariah	13	F	W	wife	Keeps house			NC
	Alvance	13	M	W	daughter				NC
	David	13	M	W	son				NC
	John	13	M	W	son				NC
	Mary J	13	F	W	maize				NC

Notes: 1.—In making entries in columns 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 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

In 1875, New Hanover County, in an act of gerrymandering, splits the largest population of black male suffrage in its northern section to form Pender County.

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 borders the property line of the widow, Mary Ann Foy of Scotts Hill. She is a professed Unionist throughout the Civil War, and head of her household in 1870, and whose formerly enslaved, Winslow Nixon, had joined the US Colored Troops in 1864, returning to Scotts Hill to start his family, before settling finally in Rocky Point, a journey similar to countless descendants of the Nixon and Foy plantations.

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 takes her Oath of Allegiance on June 19, 1865. When she dies on Christmas Eve, 1875, she has been made fully aware of her status in a planter class of staunch Confederates in downtown Wilmington seeking to take back power by subdividing New Hanover County right along her very own property line.

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) reappears at her aunt and uncle's house, Mariah and Elias Hines, in the Grant Township of Pender County. Her age is approximate as she was not listed in the 1870 household of Ruben and Mary Hines.

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 Marriage Licenses have been an invaluable resource in this research. For instance, this certificate lists Mary Jane Hines and her newly wedded husband, James Harper. The certificate notes that they marry at the house of the bride's father in New Hanover County on January 22, 1891.

Intimate details are often revealed on 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, because the names Mary, Patsy, and Nora are so common in the Scotts Hill area that only by repeated cross-referencing 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 to help delineate whom is whom.

The misspellings of names is also common. For instance, on this Marriage Certificate, Mary Jane's last name is spelled H—E—I—N—E—S.

Further information is revealed on the Marriage License of Mary Jane Hines. R.K. Bryant, Jr., son of a former enslaver and later committee member to split off New Hanover County in 1875, is the neighbor Joseph Thompson Foy, who applies for the license on behalf of Mary Jane and James Harper.

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, two notable surnames of former planters in the area. The bride, Mary Jane, is from New Hanover County, age 17, and the daughter of Reuben and Mary Hines, living in New Hanover County, most likely in the township of Kirkland just over the border of Pender County here in Scotts Hill.

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.

Mrs. 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

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 along the Corridor of New Hanover and Onslow Counties are deeded over to white sons and daughters in the Last Wills and Testaments of extended Foy family members between Wilmington and New Bern, NC, generation after generation, the family trees of their enslaved continue to expand and contract with more specific detail by the successive marriages, births, and deaths of each generation after the Civil War.

Further research will determine when Mary Jane Harper begins employment under Nora Dozier-Foy, wife of Joseph Thompson Foy, but most likely after her marriage to James Harper in 1891, and employed by reference most likely because her own mother had worked at Poplar Grove, and had helped to deliver the four infants that Nora will lose within days of giving birth or as stillborns.

Nora D. Foy dies a childless 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 Mary Jane Harper and Mary Eliza Taylor, while also communicating her suspicion that it was perhaps not reciprocated.

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

WHITE 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.

N. C. 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>			2. HOME (USUAL RESIDENCE) OF DECEASED:		
(b) Township _____ (If in town limits, leave blank)			(a) State <u>N.C.</u> (b) County <u>New Hanover</u>		
(c) City or town <u>Wilmington.</u> (If outside city or town limits, write RURAL)			(c) City or town <u>Scott's Hill.</u>		
(d) Street, hospital or institution <u>J.W.M. Hospital.</u>			(d) Street or R.F.D. _____		
(e) Length of stay in hospital or institution <u>15 Days.</u> (Yrs., mos., or days)			(e) Is place of residence in corporate limits? <u>NO.</u>		
In this community _____ (Yrs., mos., or days)			(f) If foreign born, how long in U.S.A.? <u>yes</u>		
3(a) FULL NAME <u>Mary Jane Harper.</u>			MEDICAL CERTIFICATION		
3(b) If veteran, name war _____ 3(c) Social Security No. _____			20. Date of death <u>January 1</u> 19 <u>42</u> , at <u>2:15 P.</u>		
4. Sex <u>Female.</u> 5. Color or Race <u>Colored.</u> 6(a) Single, married, widowed, or divorced. <u>Married.</u>			21. I certify that death occurred on the date above stated; that I attended deceased from <u>Dec. 17</u> 19 <u>41</u> to <u>Jan. 1</u> 19 <u>42</u> and that I last saw her alive on <u>January 1</u> 19 <u>42</u>		
6(b) Name of husband or wife <u>James Harper.</u>			Immediate cause of death <u>Cerebral Hemorrhage</u> Duration <u>1 wk.</u>		
(c) Age of husband or wife if alive _____ years.			Due to <u>Arteriosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease with Hypertension</u> Yes		
7. Birth date of deceased <u>Sept. 10, 1872.</u> (month, day and year)			Due to _____		
8. AGE: Years <u>69</u> Months <u>3</u> Days <u>22</u> If less than one day hrs. _____ min. _____			Other conditions <u>Secondary Hemiplegia</u> (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)		
9. Birthplace <u>New Hanover Co., N.C.</u> (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)			Major findings: Of operations <u>None</u>		
10. Usual occupation <u>Housewife.</u>			Of autopsy <u>None</u>		
11. Industry or business <u>6000</u>			22. If death was due to external causes, all in the following:		
12. Name <u>Reuben Hines.</u>			(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____		
13. Birthplace <u>New Hanover Co., N.C.</u>			(b) Date of occurrence _____		
14. Maiden Name <u>Mary Douglas.</u>			(c) Where did injury occur? (City or town) (County) (State) _____		
15. Birthplace <u>Virginia.</u>			(d) Did injury occur about home, on farm, in industrial place, in a public place? (Specify type of place) _____		
16(a) Informant's Signature <u>Jama Harper</u>			While at work? _____		
(b) Address <u>Scott's Hill, N.C.</u>			(e) Causes of injury _____		
17(a) <u>Burial</u> (b) Date thereof <u>1/4th/42</u> (Month, day, year)			23. Signature <u>Jama Harper</u>		
(c) Cemetery _____			Address <u>Wilmington, N.C.</u>		
(d) Location <u>Scott's Hill N. C.</u>			Filed <u>1-4</u> 19 <u>42</u> (b) <u>A.H. Scott</u> Registrar		
18(a) Funeral director <u>Robert H. Scott</u>					
(b) Address <u>City</u>					

Her daughter, Emma Harper, continues to work in the Foy household.. She will marry David Foy. Among their children are twin girls, one of which does not survive, and later, a girl they will name Nora Foy. The intimacy of oppression under the supervision of her employer, Nora Dozier Foy, perhaps leads to this small gesture of grace.

Mary Jane Harper lives another 20 years after the death of Nora Dozier Foy. Her death certificate reveals that her mother, Mary Douglas, was born in Virginia, and that father, Rueben Hines was born in New Hanover County, NC.

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

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 **Shelburne**
(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 **Shelburne**
(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.? _____ 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 **Shelburne R. 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 **Geo. H. Allen, Jr.**
(b) Address **City**

19(a) 4/18 1944 (b) **A.H. Elliott**
Filed Registrar

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 _____
Underline the cause to which death should be charged statistically.

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. P. [Signature]** M.D.
Address **Shelburne N.C.** Date signed **4-17-44**

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. **PHYSICIANS:**

There are now approximately 12 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 enslaved people imported from West 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 deep communal roots and a network of extended family lines for support. These men and women knew intimately the inland waterways and estuaries of their great-grandparents. They 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 their intellect and their skill sets to open businesses, run for political office, and finance homes; they were bankers, lawyers, doctors, teachers, barbers, laundresses, and 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.

Their names are in family photo albums, on gravesites, in Bibles, on photographs, on deeds, certificates, draft notices, diplomas and obituaries — this isn't just the material for one Gullah exhibit in one room at Poplar Grove, this is material that requires display on a massive scale.

However, it must be a collaborative effort, because I am only one point of view. Among us today are descendants whose history deserves 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, where there is so much more than these few minutes I have shared with you.

Thank you, and welcome again to Poplar Grove.

Last updated: July 2022