

Village of
Marines and
Families

The Village of Marines

Marines was a small village located where Court House Bay is now. There were about 75 people and 20 houses there when the Base took over. There were three stores, a post office, a saloon, and grist mill. A cotton mill had been there before the grist mill. A large wharf was located by the grist mill. The village was fenced off between the two creeks and there was a large gate. The fence was not put up to keep people out but to keep the livestock out. Stock ran free until 1926. People had to fence their fields to keep the animals out. The school was located about a mile away. It was open for 6 months of the year and went to the 9th grade.

People farmed outside the village. People in the village took in boarders but would not sell them any property until they had been there for several years and they knew if they wanted them for a neighbor. In the summer, people would come for several weeks on vacation. While in the winter, there were always hunters here.

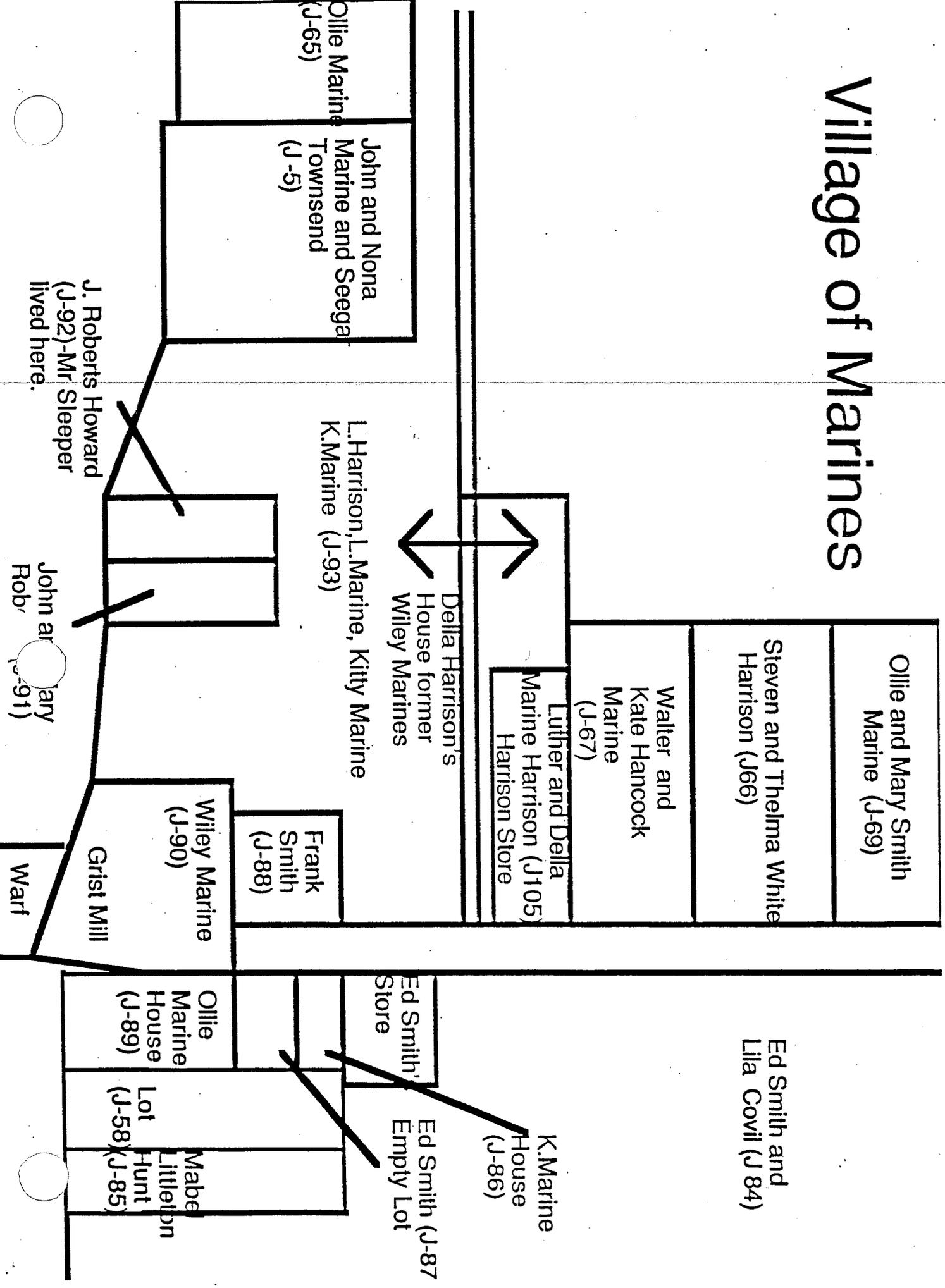
About 1900, phone lines were put in and many got a phone. Phone lines at that time had to be maintained by the residents and it didn't take long until there was no phone service to the area because people didn't have time to repair broken lines. They had no running water but electricity did come in a few months before the Base would take over.

The winters then seemed colder than today's. Plants would freeze in the house. Some nights even the chamber pots would freeze under their bed. They say that they knew it was a really bad night when the pot froze with waves from the wind blowing through the cracks in the wall. In 1918, the New River froze and people drove their horses and loaded wagons across it to Sneads Ferry.

There were few doctors in the area. Dr. L.D. "Cooter" Bryan lived at Sneads Ferry and he was only called if there was an emergency. If he came and could not get back home, he would stay with Walter and Kate Hancock Marine. Mostly people took care of their own health problems. In 1918, the Spanish Influenza hit the area and many people died. Dr. Edward W. Ward, who lived at Cedar Point on New River, served the area before Dr. Bryant.

Harrison's also had a store in Marines where all remember that every Saturday he made the best homemade ice cream. All came to buy his cones for 5 cents.

Village of Marines



Family of Ed and Frank Smith

The earliest history of this family was Elijah Smith, their grandfather, who bought property in 1829 on Bear Creek from David Simmons for 50 barrels of turpentine. He was 31 when he bought the property. Elijah was born in West Bear Creek. His occupation listed in the census was that of a cooper. He married Eliza. They had seven children. One of their children was David. He married Mary Wells. They were the parents of a son named E.S. Smith who married a Pollard. Their son was Edward Silas Smith who married Fannie and their children were: Josie, Loma, Edward B.(Ed) Smith, Blanche, who married O.L. Covil, Adolph, Ray, Fred Harget, who moved away, and Raymond, who moved to Kinston. After Fannie died, he married Rena Winberry Gillette who was the daughter of George and Catherine Winberry and was the widow of William Isaac Gillette of Marines. She had one son, George Winberry Gillette when she married Ed Smith and together they had Frank and Mary Smith.

The children went to a 2 room school near Marines. After graduation Frank attended Atlantic Christian College.

Edward Silas Smith operated a store in Marines. It was opened in 1888. The store sold everything from horse collars to groceries and also contained the post office. When their father died, both boys ran the store. Frank ran the store with his brother and was also the postmaster for the area of Marines. The Post Office was located in the store. Frank later became the postmaster of Jacksonville.

Frank Smith married Leila Pearl Hurst daughter of Bazel B. Hurst and Minnie Hurst and they had one daughter, Annice Marie.

Ed Smith married Lila Covil, sister of O.L. (Lemon) Covil. Frank lived in the E.S. Smith house on Court House Bay. The house burned before the Base took over the land.

Mary Smith, Frank's sister, married Ollie Marine.

Ed Smith's store was a blessing for the local residents and the surrounding farmers. He allowed the families to run an account at the store all through the growing season and then when the crops came in they paid their bills. If someone helped them on their farm during the growing season they gave them a note that they could exchange for goods at Ed's store. Some families owed Ed almost their entire profit for their crops.

The Marine Family

Bobel Marine came from Maryland and married Anne Aliza Cole. Bobel had a store and boat and is said to have begun the village of Marines. They had two sons, Wiley and Lewis. Wiley married and he and his wife had Addie, Della, Clyde (a girl), Pearl, Walter, and Daisy. After his first wife died, he married Narcie Hurst, the daughter of Andrew and Mary Hurst. She was 31 and Wiley was 63 at the time of their marriage.

The story is told that Narcie had never married. Basil and Minnie also lived there with their children. Basil was her brother. After her parents died, the homeplace was left to her along with one of the fields and her brother was left several other fields. Basil wanted to have the home so he arranged a marriage for Narcie with Wiley. After the marriage, Narcie sold the house to her brother. Narcie always called Wiley, Mr. Marine. They did have two sons, who died as young children, and a daughter Annie Lula Marine. Upon the death of Wiley, Pearl sold the home to Della and her husband, Luther Harrison from Currituck. Luther ran a store in Marines. Luther built them a beautiful home. It was said he could design anything. He built boats and even made a crystal radio. Della designed hats.

Pearl married Col. Gillette, who was the son of Rena Winberry Gillette and the step son of Ed Smith. Walter married Kate Hancock of Bear Creek and they had a child named Martha Ward Duncan. Addie married Louis Kilpatrick, Annie Lula married Peter Wilson of Australia and moved to Hobart, Tasmania, and Clyde and Daisy who never married. Clyde and Daisy moved to Wilmington where she worked for the Atlantic Coast Line R.R. all her life.

Lewis Marine married Kitty Williams. Lewis built a very large house but it burned in 1935. They had Annie, who was the first wife of A.J. Hurst. Kate, who married Ken Hurst, Ollie married Mary Smith, A.E.K. (Kay) Marine who never married, John, who married Nana Moore and Kitty Mae, who married a Gornto.