

John Isaac Hurst

Family

The John Isaac Hurst Family

The first Hurst to settle Onslow County was John Isaac Hurst (1804-1852). In 1835, John married Anne Tuke Borden and purchased the David Ward place on Brown's Sound, about a mile from the present Onslow Beach. It was 1,150 acres and cost \$3,000. This property joined the property of Anne's mother, Anne Meade Dulaney. The Dulaney's received their property from a land grant in the 1700's.

David Ward built a house in 1822. It was pegged and consisted of two rooms downstairs and two up, with a closed stairwell. Chimneys were at each end and a porch ran across the front. The dining room and kitchen were off from the house as was customary. About 1900, two shed rooms were added at the back and the dining room and kitchen were connected by a large room. The porch was then extended the entire length of the house about eighty feet.

John and Anne had two sons, William Hogan Hurst (1836-1910) and Andrew Jackson Hurst (1838-1896). Anne's widowed mother Anne Dulaney Borden, who had been brought up on Brown's Sound, and Anne Tuke's niece, Lucretia Borden, an orphan, lived with them.

In 1859 Andrew married Mary Caroline Burnap (1844-1896) and in 1860 William Hogan married her sister, Sarah Elizabeth Burnap (1842-1881). Andrew continued to live at the home place while William built a home about one and one half miles east. Andrew had nine children and William had five. Halfway between the houses a schoolhouse was built and the children grew up as members of a single family. The Burnap grandmother, Rachel Burnap Young, made her home with William and Sarah.

Across the House Field at the edge of Old Woman Swamp was the family graveyard. On several graves, gardenia bushes were planted. The Hurst Ward cemetery was located right under where the electrical power station is on Route 172.

The beach was a great joy to the family. There was hunting and trapping for the men in the winter; fishing went on all year but this was food gathering rather than sport; but when summer came it was for everyone. There were picnics, day and evening, when the family joined with neighbors, the Fonvilles, Freemans, Provows, Hendersons and Wards. In those days visiting was a second profession.

The full moon in June was the occasion of a special beach party where everyone looked for sea turtles. The second Saturday in May opened the season with a picnic at New River Inlet.

In late summer with crops in, there was a camping party at Brown's Inlet which lasted a whole week. This was well chaperoned.

After the death of Andrew and Mary in 1896, Basil Hurst and Minnie lived at the homestead and raised nine children. Minnie was still living there when the Marine Base came in 1941. On that final day in October, after the house was emptied, Lena, a daughter, swept all the rooms in ritual homage.