

Interesting People, Places, and Things

The Great Freeze

In 1918, the New River froze over. Mr. Hurst's uncle drove his wagon and two horses across the river at Sneads Ferry when he was returning from Wilmington to get supplies. His aunt and cousin walked from their home at Hadnot Point to Jacksonville on the ice.

Farnell's

The Farnells were Mr. Hurst's first cousins. They lived where the old hospital is located on Hospital Point. The large tree that is now in front of the old hospital was in their front yard.

Shoes

People wore ankle high leather shoes to protect them from snakes. Tennis shoes were sold for \$.50 but they were not popular.

Old Woman Swamp

Old Woman's Swamp was an Indian name for the creek that is shown on maps today as Gillette Creek. There was a foot bridge over it where 172 now passes over it. Sometimes the fields in the area were covered with water. When they plowed these fields, they often found pottery.

Chewing Tobacco

Many women dipped snuff. He told us that his mother never did it in public but when she was with her "old ladies group" she did.

Hunting Club and Radio

There was one on French's Creek which was owned by police officers from New York. The first time he ever heard a radio was when his father took him to this Hunt Club to here the Tunney- Dempsey Fight. The radio had many knobs which had to be constantly tuned. This was on September 24, 1926.

Will Montford

His family was one of the few substantial black land owners. His home was on Route 172.

General Ward's Plantation

Mr. Hurst told us that he was told stories as a child about General Ward's Plantation which was the largest in the area. It was located on Duck Creek. On May 1st every year all the slaves and neighbors would line up in the driveway of the plantation to say goodbye to the family as they left for the season. The Wards had two plantations. One was here and the other was in Wayne County. The family would pack up all their things into six large carriages and move on May 1st to the other plantation and would not return until after the first frost.

General Ward built a brick wall one foot thick all around the family grave yard. This was not a general practice. He died in 1834.