



### About PenderROCK

In the beginning was the Walker Family Reunion. Then came the Wheelers. Then came the Williams'. So it became the Walker+ Family Reunion.

There used to be the Jacobs Family Reunion. There was also the Merritt Family Reunion.



The name became rather long and cumbersome.

Who are these people and why are they all in the same family group? They are descendants of people who have lived in Pender County NC since at least 1765 (Esther Jacobs was on the tax roll that year). They were colored people. They were colored beige. They were colored yellow. They were colored red. They were colored brown.

North Carolina had many clans of free colored people. Each clan was heavily interrelated and was also related to neighboring clans. So the Pender colored

people are kin to the Robeson colored people and Sampson colored people and the Brunswick & Bladen & Columbus colored people.

Some of the other people no

longer identify themselves as "colored". They have become Indian or white. The Pender people conbe colored mulatto. they self-identify as black and/ African American. But they're still beige

Half of the surnames [Jacobs, Messick, Walker, Wheeler] have lived in Pender County since the 1700s. Thus, the combined reunion was renamed the Pender Reunion Of Colored Kindred (PenderROCK).

Half of the families [West, Merritt, Williams] came to Pender from nearby Sampson County in the 1880s. PenderROCK has been strengthened by the increasing attendance of Sampson County cousins who share the same lineage.

Contact historian@penderrock.org

#### We are Coming to Find a Part of Ourselves

#### Who is 'we'?

'We' are a ninety-four year old woman whose family migrated from Pender to Philly in 1921. Who now has only a foggy memory of Burgaw places and relatives, and wants to find living kin.

'We' are twenty-somethings born & raised in NY, NJ, Philly, who have never been to NC. Whose parents never went to NC. Who want to see what all the fuss is about.

We are coming to Pender County to learn how & where our ancestors lived. To have an image to seal in our

#### We are Coming to *Leave* a Part of Ourselves

Dollars are important, and we want to spend as much of our reunion money as possible in Pender County. Our people have been here since the 1700s, so practically everyone is related to us. We want to support our cousins' businesses and livelihoods.

We are making a conscious effort to leave Pender better than we found it. Following the example of our esteemed elder Carrie Herring Walker who left us at age 110 this year and directed bereavement memorials to the Pender County Historical Society, our goal is to donate a flatscreen TV and DVD player to the historical society, to start a video archive that can be on display in the museum as well as online.

We want your stories. We will outfit several of your young cousins with small video cameras as P-reporters. They will capture grandchildren interviewing their grandparents throughout the weekend. These videos will be donated to the historical society, to build an historical record of people of color in Pender County.

# Preview Pender

## Friday September 9, 2011





It is believed to be the oldest train depot in the state of North Carolina, dating back to 1850. Recently renovated, the depot contains many facilities under one roof: the Burgaw Area Chamber of Commerce, Railroad Museum, Transportation Museum, Pender County Arts Council, and the Visitor's Center. So take a step back in time enjoy the museums and take a tour.

The kids are sure to love the rail car and loading dock. The building is also on the National Register of Historic Places and the Civil War Trail.

109 N Walker Street Burgaw, NC 28425 You can walk one block to the retail center and check out the antique store, corner drug store, pub, or new coffee shop.

Or stay put, visit with newly-found cousins and taste sausage biscuits made from Pender pigs, made in Pender County. Careful! This will make you want to stop by Pender Packing Company before you head out and load up on sausages to go!!



4520 NC Highway 133 Rocky Point, NC 28457-9108 (910) 675-3311



Nationally-recognized Pender County artist

#### **Ivey Hayes**

Will have artwork on display and available for your purchase at the depot.

Ivey Hayes was born and raised in Pender North Carolina. He re-

ceived a Bachelor of Arts Degree from North Carolina Central University. He went on to study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and ultimately obtained his Masters in Fine Arts at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1975.

Ivey's artwork has garnered numerous awards from Presidential and Celebrity Awards to the North Carolina Azalea Festival Master Arts Exhibit. His artwork has been exhibited throughout his home state of North Carolina, Washington, D.C., Boston and New York as well as various galleries and private collections in the United States.



Paul's Place has been nationally-recognized for their hot dogs since World War II. Paul's is in the Rocky Point community of Pender County. They will setup a hot dog stand just for you at our Preview Pender hospitality night.



## Saturday September 10, 2011



### Land Cruise!

#### A what???

Yes! A Land Cruise. You know, when you cruise the Caribbean

or Hawaii, there's a bus at port to take you to the places that will give you a good feel for what the city is like? We are doing the same for Pender County.

We will show you places that have significance for all Pender people, Pender people of color, and Pender-ROCK people. Tour guides on each bus will provide explanations. You will have an opportunity to get out, see things close-up, purchase lunch, etc. (Bus will pick up at hotel)

#### **Pender County Museum**

A small, struggling museum completely run by volunteers. Lethia Jacobs Towns was on the charter board in the 1970s. The heirs of Carrie Herring Walker directed donations to Pender County Museum just this year. PenderROCK plans to partner with the museum to help them reach their objective of better representation of people of color.



#### **Burgaw Cemetery**

James Franklin Walker (1856-1924) Ann Julia West Walker (1865-1937) Blanche Walker Bellamy (1882-1965) William Walker (1858-1943) Pearlie Walker, all rest in this serene cemetery in downtown Burgaw.



#### **Penderlea**

Penderlea was a planned farm community, championed in the 1930s by Eleanor Roosevelt. It provided (white) families a plot of land, a home, outhouses, farm equipment and agricultural coaching. It was part of the federal programs to combat rural poverty after the Great Depression.

Why do you care? The Depression affected everyone, colored people disproportionately. Looking at Penderlea, 'take it down a notch' and you can imagine how your great-grandparents lived.



#### **Cypress Creek Community**

It's just rural farm land and scrub pines in a low, wet area but (1) you may not know what regular ole Pender County homeplaces look like and (2) Jacobs have owned this land since the 1700s — what other people can say that?



#### New Hope Baptist Church & Love Grove School

This is PenderROCK's ancestral church. Walkers, Merritts, Jacobs, Wheelers and Messicks have been deacons there since the early 1900s. It is still a family church. Ten of the twelve windows carry the names of your ancestors. We'll stop here for a lunch made available for purchase by your church cousins. We will show the short documentary 'Under the Kudzu' about Pender schools for colored people in the early 1900s. We will walk across the street to visit the one-room Love Grove School that we attended from the late 1800s to the mid 1900s.

# Pender Splendor

## Saturday September 10, 2011



201 Community Center Drive Surf City, NC 28445

The banquet is at the Assembly Building in Surf City, Topsail Island, Pender County NC.



Topsail Island is Pender County's coastline on the Atlantic Ocean. It is a barrier island — a long skinny strip running parallel with the coast, creating an ocean side and a bay side.

The Assembly Building is now an historic landmark. It was the research and testing site for Operation Bumblebee, the top secret missile program operated by the Navy on Topsail Island from 1946-1948. The RIM-2 Terrier missile devised as a test vehicle became operational as a fleet anti-aircraft missile aboard USS Boston in 1955, and evolved into the 21st century standard missile





### Sunday September 11, 2011



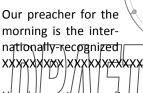
#### "We've Come this Far by Faith"

Even if you don't regularly attend church services. Even if Christianity (or Baptist, specifically) is not your normal mode of worship. Suck it up, and show up! Our intent is to honor the God

that brought us to where we are now. And to recognize that — regardless of where and how we worship now — the Middle District Baptist Association's offshoot, Kenansville Eastern Missionary Baptist Association, is the consortium of churches that nourished us.

YOU are only here through the grace of God working through the Middle District Baptist Association. If not for them, your grand-parents would have had no high school education. C.F. Pope High School — the only school for all non-whites until the 1970s — was started by the Middle District Baptist Association in the 1890s as 'Burgaw Institute'. It was a boarding school — young-sters from the farms moved to the city of Burgaw and lived at the school. The school was Black owned and supported for decades before the county began to fund it like the white schools with your ancestors tax money.

Middle District Baptist Association 1833 N Carolina 53 Burgaw, NC 28425



He is pastor emeritus at the Riverside Churgh, neer Harlem NY. Riverside is an international, internacial, and interna-

Rockefeller Jr. in 1927. XXXXXXXX was installed as the fifth Senior Minister of Riverside on June 1, 1989, and retired on June 1, 2007, was the first African-American to serve as Senior Minister

of productive confegation in national and international religious circles, XXXXXX is known as the preacher's preacher because of his extensive preaching darker and his charismatic style. In their March 4, 1996 issue, Newsweek magazine recognized him as one of the 12 "most effective preachers" for the English-speaking world.

Rev. XXXXXX is with us today because he is 'coming to find a part of himself' and 'coming to leave a part of himself'.

He was born in Burgaw, Pender County NC. "Can anything good come out of Nazereth?" [John 1:46] Oh, YES!!!

Middle District Baptist Association is across the road from

### Dunn Funeral Home

810 W Wilmington Street Burgaw, NC 28425 Phone Number: (910) 259-9400

Bob Dunn, Jr., Proprietor

Bobby Dunn has well-served generations of PenderROCK families.

PenderROCK mentored (Lillie Walker Shaw)



When **you** can't get here flowers can!

#### **Harts Florist**

203 W Fremont St Burgaw, NC 28425 (910) 259-2926

# 7he 7own Square Affair

### Sunday September 11, 2011



Burgaw Courthouse 100 S Wright Street Burgaw, NC 28425 "Pig Pickin' at the Courthouse"
We are having a pig pickin' (yes, chicken and veggies, too!) on the courthouse lawn in the center of town.



What imagery! You will end your visit to Pender County at the same place you began on Friday — the very center of town. This is the New South! Enjoy the beautiful, bucolic scene of the Georgian courthouse set amidst large oaks across from a 1940's retail row that is picturesque enough to have been featured in 'The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood', 'Silver Bullet', 'Freedom Song', 'The Runaway', and 'Idlewild'.

For a full year of planning, PenderROCK has been blown away by the strong partnering of Pender County — particularly the

#### **Pender County Tourism Department**

Monique Baker, Director York House Building 108 S. Cowan St. Burgaw, NC 28425 York House Building

Our thanks to Monique and the other county officials.

Local cousins: Your tax monies do good work!

Visiting cousins: Come back to Pender, a county that

supports YOU!

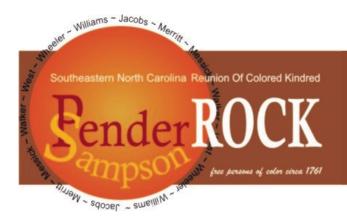


Picnic food purchased from Wells Pork & Beef, Pender County, NC.

Wells Pork and Beef offers a variety of farm fresh meats that are processed on premises, daily. Fresh pork and

beef cuts. Country-cured ham. A variety of sausages, slab bacon, liver pudding, and specialty meats. Plus fresh-frozen vegetables: butterbeans, field peas, okra, etc. And an assortment of locally-made jams and relishes: chow-chow, fig preserves, watermelon-rind pickles.

Wells Pork & Beef 750 Croomsbridge Road Burgaw, NC 28425





PenderROCK, Welcome Home! from Pender Packing Company



(910) 675-3311

10% off total purchase with this coupon Sept 9-11 2011 only

4520 NC Highway 133 Rocky Point, NC 28457-9108

PenderROCK, Welcome Home! from Courthouse Coffee



### (OURTHOUSE (OFFEE

211 S Wright St Burgaw, NC 28425 (910) 259-2939 free wi-fi

10% off total purchase with this coupon Sept 9-11 2011 only

PenderROCK, Welcome Home! from Hart's Florist

When you can't get here flowers can!

#### **Harts Florist**

203 W Fremont St Burgaw, NC 28425

10% off total purchase with this coupon Sept 9-11 2011 only

PenderROCK, Welcome Home! from Wells Pork & Beef



Wells Pork & Beef 750 Croomsbridge Road Burgaw, NC 28425

A coupon from Wells in in your gift bag

PenderROCK, Welcome Home! from Burgaw Antique Place



101 S. Wright St. Burgaw, NC 28425 910-259-7070 across from courthouse

10% off total purchase with this coupon Sept 9-11 2011 only

PenderROCK, Welcome Home! from Subway of Burgaw



Always a location nearby!

Subway of Burgaw 117 Pender Landing Shopping Burgaw, NC 28425

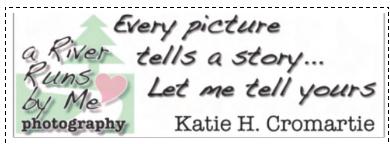
10% off total purchase with this coupon Sept 9-11 2011 only

PenderROCK, Welcome Home! from Paul's Place Hot Dogs



11725 US Highway 117 S Rocky Point, NC 28457 (910) 675-2345

10% off total purchase with this coupon Sept 9-11 2011 only



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