

Ancestors with a Plan

Written by Kimberly Morgan
Tuesday, 24 February 2015 09:14



It was a week before Christmas, 1882. Stephen Binyard was at work, loading lumber onto boats at Duncan Wilson's lumber yard located on the Beaufort River at the end of Pigeon Point Road. Stephen's wife, Jane, was home just a few blocks away caring for their eight children.

Stephen and Jane had known each other since they were very young; they were slaves on adjoining plantations-- Stephen, on Edgerly and Jane on Red House. After serving three years in the US Colored Troops, Stephen and Jane were married in 1866, and started having children immediately.

Stephen was working alone that December day in 1882. His colleagues came back after lunch and he was gone. He didn't come home in time for dinner, either.

The next day, his body was found in the Beaufort River. He'd drowned.

Jane had his body taken to his family's land on Edgerly, and he was buried on a pretty piece of land bordered by Brickyard Creek. Sprawling oak trees that had shaded him in the times of slavery now shaded him in death.

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