

Life in the Wild

*News from Cape Romain, Ernest F. Hollings
ACE Basin, Santee and Waccamaw National
Wildlife Refuges*

Have You Seen the Lights?

During the times of Spanish exploration, Cape Romain was known as Cape Roman, and then briefly, Cape Carteret. The Cape's shoals were treacherous, extending seven to nine miles off the coast. In the days before lighthouses, many vessels and lives were lost when ships ventured onto the shoals, and wind and waves claimed them for the sea.

When lighthouses were built to warn mariners away from the shoals, they saved many lives. The first lighthouse on Cape Romain was built by Winslow Lewis in 1827 on Northeast Raccoon Key. It cost \$10,000 and the deal came with light keeper's quarters. The short, conical, brick lighthouse was 87 ½ feet tall. Its red stationary light was fitted with 11 lamps and 21 inch reflectors. This lighthouse was a functional disappointment because the red, whale oil wick lamp could not be seen beyond 9-14 nautical miles. Today it is one of the few remaining lighthouses of its period in the U.S.

In 1853, \$20,000 was appropriated to build a second lighthouse nearby, and to remove an old wind mill on Mill Island. A wick house, boat house, and two more dwellings were added nearby. During construction, builders noticed that the new brick tower leaned toward the mainland. The lean has worsened over the years and today the tower is more than three feet off plumb.

Light keepers accessed the first order Fresnel lens after climbing 212 spiraling, cast-iron steps. The light was lit by oil lamp, with a revolving beam visible for 19 miles.



The Cape Romain lighthouses have served as prominent navigational landmarks for over 150 years. Credit: Steve Hillebrand

Just three years after the lighthouse was completed, the Civil War began, and lighthouses along the Atlantic Coast went dark. The light at Cape Romain was restored in 1866.

October 25, 1759: The ship Judith, with Captain Arno, of and for Falmouth, from Cape Fear, with about 200 barrels of pitch, tar, etc. went ashore on Cape Romain, and was entirely lost. The crew saved themselves in the ship's boat, and underwent great hardships before they got to Charleston. Three of them perished on a small Island or Key near the Cape.

*SC Weekly Gazette, Charleston, SC, #5,
October 24-31, 1759*

On August 31, 1886, "The keeper was in his house when the shock came. A gradually increasing rumbling 'sounding something like a battery of artillery or a troop of cavalry crossing a long bridge,' was heard before the shock. In less than a minute came the shocks, the first one lasting about two minutes, the next one as long and at about two minute intervals. The shocks did the tower no injury but its vibration was great. About a thousand "cranes" nest on the Key during the summer months, and these were flying about 'making a fearful noise,' during the shock." (A Descriptive Narrative of the Earthquake of August 31, 1886, by Carlyle McKinley)

*(continued on
page 2)*



Have You Seen the Lights - continued

Opportunities for socializing were rare. Located seven miles from the mainland, isolation impacted every aspect of life for lighthouse families. Children had to be sent away to attend school. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, McClellanville's villagers began holding "Cape Parties" on Lighthouse Island. They played games, swam, caught fish, and collected crabs and oysters, then they roasted their tasty sea treats on the beach.



The Spray, captained by Hepburn Morrison, takes villagers to the Cape. Credit: The Village Museum

Assistant keeper Hepburn Morrison (1893-1896), told his granddaughter, Judy Fortner, that "the girls loved" his uniform. To entertain visitors, he would climb to the top and stand on his head, with his legs wrapped around the lightning rod tip!

In 1932 Lighthouse Island, Cape Island, Raccoon Key, and thousands of acres of salt marsh and tidal creeks were included in the new Cape Romain Migratory Bird Refuge. At that time it was managed by the U.S. Biological Survey, now known as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

One hundred fifty three years after the first lighthouse was built at Cape Romain, the lighthouses and Lighthouse Island were officially recognized for their cultural and historical significance, and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For many years, refuge employees have sought resourceful solutions to protect the lighthouses from the damaging winds, storms, and salt air, but time has taken its toll.

Because national wildlife refuges are established to care for animals and their habitats, the funding the refuge receives is for habitat and species management, rather than historic preservation. When refuge employees linked their efforts with partner and supporter Tommy Graham, disintegration of the old lights slowed.

Graham, a local historic restoration professional, worked with a team of refuge staff and volunteers to repair and repaint the lighthouses in 1983. Today he is working with Glenn Keyes, historic preservation architect, and John Moore, structural engineer, to design a solution for the rusted and unstable spiraling steps and to stabilize the structural instability of the lantern room.

Four guided tours a year are offered by Cape Romain NWR, with transportation provided by Coastal Expeditions Ferry. Tour dates and details can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/caperomain/>

If you would like to help restore these historic gems, donations are being accepted by:

The McClellanville Village Museum
843/887 3030
villagemuseum@tds.net

and the refuge Friends Group:
The SEWEE Association
843/884 7539
sewee.association@earthlink.net



Refuge employees fear that high winds will topple the lantern room. Credit: Tricia Lynch

Highs Across the Lowcountry

One of South Carolina's America's Great Outdoors projects identifies a land protection partnership between Santee and Cape Romain NWRs, Francis Marion National Forest, and Congaree National Park.

Waccamaw NWR will host its annual Back to School Event on August 25th, 2012. This year's focus is on customs and rituals of local Native American tribes. Go to www.fws.gov/waccamaw to learn more.

The earliest recorded Loggerhead sea turtle nest appeared on Cape Romain NWR on April 30, 2012. By mid-June, over 500 Loggerhead nests had been laid on refuge beaches. Check out nesting progress on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/caperomain> or go to <http://seaturtle.org>.

At Santee NWR's Dingle Pond Unit, the hiking trail was extended to include over 600 feet of boardwalk and a half mile of trail. This project was completed in partnership with Santee Cooper.

myRefuge is a new application available for ipads and iphones that highlights refuges as outdoor destinations. Download the application and navigate to Waccamaw, Cape Romain, Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin and Santee Refuges to obtain information and maps.

Read the new Cape Romain NWR's lighthouse brochure at <http://www.fws.gov/caperomain/text/lighthouses.pdf>.

Waccamaw NWR is developing a Quick Read (QR) Code interpretive tour at the Cox Ferry Lake Recreation Area which will allow visitors with smartphones to listen to podcasts and watch videos to enhance their interpretive experience.

For a third year, Cape Romain NWR's sea turtles are being included in a genetics study. The study provides insight into the number and location of Loggerhead sea turtle nests each season, and identifies mother/daughter pairs. During 2010 and 2011, 953 individual female turtles have nested on refuge islands.

The Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin NWR Student Intern and Volunteer Program is underway. Interns and volunteers are busy attending workshops and making preparations for wood duck and dove banding, monitoring and erecting new wood duck boxes, and assisting with other management projects.

Tides of Change

For 230 years, Jehossee, the 4,500-acre island at Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin NWR, was in agricultural use. Its low-lying, wet soils weren't favorable for most crops, but the lands were perfect for rice cultivation. When rice was the number one cash crop in South Carolina, it was known as "Carolina Gold." Today Jehossee Island retains the mystery and ambience of an eighteenth and nineteenth century rice plantation.

In 1776, Charles Drayton, also the owner of Drayton Hall in the historic Ashley River District of Charleston, purchased Jehossee Island. The Drayton family owned Jehossee Island for 47 years. It was a working plantation, with an overseer's house, cotton gin, rice mill, and many slave houses. Rice and Sea Island cotton were the cash crops, but indigo, corn and potatoes were also cultivated there. When Drayton put Jehossee up for sale in 1822, the ad in the Charleston Courier read "that well-known island, called Jehossee, containing 1000 acres of first quality Swamp Lands."

William Aiken bought Jehossee in 1830. He had served in the South Carolina's House of Representatives and Senate, as Governor, and in the US House of Representatives. When Aiken owned Jehossee Plantation, his management was considered the model for rice production in the antebellum South.

"Out of the rice-fields of rich, black alluvium rose an area of higher land, upon which were situated the mansion and village of Governor Aiken, where he, in 1830, commenced his duties as rice-planter. A hedge of bright green casino surrounded the well-kept garden, within which magnolias and live-oaks enveloped the solid old house, screening it with their heavy foliage from the strong winds of the ocean, while flowering shrubs of all descriptions added their bright and vivid coloring to the picturesque beauty of the scene."

"Voyage of the Paper Canoe," Nathaniel H. Bishop, 1878

Approximately 700 slaves lived and worked on Jehossee Island until the Civil War. Because it was isolated from the services and stores of populated areas, the island had to function as an independent community. It had its own hospitals, including a "laying-in" hospital for people with serious illnesses and a nursery for working parents. There was also a church with an attending minister.

Aiken's house and other structures survived the War, spared when General Sherman passed through on his way from



The Overseer's House at Jehossee Island. Credit: Bryan Woodward

Savannah to Columbia. When Aiken died in 1887, Jehossee passed to his daughter, Henrietta Aiken Rhett. She continued the rice operations with wage and contract labor. Upon her death in 1918, farming operations ceased.

Aiken's house was lost to fire sometime after the War and before 1910. Historian Ulrich B. Phillips visited the island around that time and later noted in his book *American Negro Slavery*, that the residence site was "marked only by desolate chimneys, a live-oak grove and a detached billiard room, once elegant but now ruinous, the one indulgence which this planter permitted himself."

The descendants of African slaves from Jehossee Island and other plantations throughout South Carolina and Georgia are known today as Gullah in SC and Geechee in GA. Many of the descendants still live in rural communities in the coastal region and on the Sea Islands where they have shaped the cultural history of the region. The Gullah people are unique in many ways. In 2006, Congress officially recognized the Gullah and the Geechee and their way of life by designating the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. This area is

managed by the United States Department of the Interior's National Park Service and encompasses coastal land from Wilmington, North Carolina to Jacksonville, Florida.

Since its inclusion in the ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge in 1993, Jehossee has

become a rich haven for wildlife. The Island is managed in much the same way as when rice was grown there, with tidally influenced river water controlled by rice field trunks. This and other management techniques provide habitat for migratory birds, waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and about 900 endangered wood storks. Jehossee's pine and palmettos, oak and sweetgum, maple, red bay and wax myrtle trees shelter painted buntings and other songbirds, raptors, seaside sparrows and snipe. The overseer's house and other ruins are silent reminders of a culture that continues to connect us to the marshes and swamp lands of the Lowcountry, where today we walk in the footsteps of planter and slave.



Fireplace ruins remain on Jehossee Island. Credit: Bryan Woodward.

The Changing Fortunes of Yauhannah Bluff

In 2000, a 22-acre tract overlooking the confluence of the Pee Dee River and Yauhannah Lake was chosen as the site for the Waccamaw NWR Headquarters and Environmental Education Center. The site, which has inspired mankind for over ten thousand years, is Yauhannah Bluff.



Waccamaw Environmental Education Center; credit: Craig Sasser

When the site was surveyed for archeology resources five years later, a wealth of information about past human habitation was discovered.

In 1711 Percival Pawley, one of the earliest grantees in the Georgetown District of South Carolina, received a proprietary grant from King George I for 300 acres. The grant included Yauhannah Bluff. Five years later a Native American trading post was built somewhere near or on the site and run by William Waties.

Waties argued for its location at “Uauenee (or the Great Bluff)” because it was closer to English Settlements, and close to the Waccamaws, who were of greater consequence than the Pedees (now spelled Pee Dee). According to the Indian Trade Commissioner’s Journal, hundreds of deer skins were sent from this trading post to Charleston aboard a large boat. On the return route, the same boat brought back guns, blankets, agricultural implements, knives, cloth, and beads.

The Trading Post was operated for only one year due to growing restlessness among local tribes. No conclusive evidence of the Post was found during the archaeological excavation. Later occupation, spanning at least 100 years,

may have masked any remains of the facility.

From 1722 to 1774, the 300 acres granted to Pawley, later named Youheany, changes hands several times including to Watie’s grandson. In 1777 the property is acquired through the release of a dower

by Jacob Vault, a land speculator from Charleston who sided with the British during the Revolution.

Prior to 1800, the land comes into ownership by the family of Col. William Alston, presumably by confiscation due to Vault’s allegiance with the British. A 1780’s reproduction of a 1757 map, which is a detailed map of the area, shows Null’s Ferry in the vicinity of Yauhannah Bluff. According to several historic documents, John Alston was running the ferry at Yauhannah in 1781. The Alston family retained ownership of Yauhannah from the 1780’s to the Civil War.

In a letter, Alston claimed he provided a mare, horse, grain, rough rice, beef, oats, as well as the services of his ferry at Yauhany, Pee Dee, for the troops during the war. The ferry continued to operate after the Civil War under many owners, most likely ceasing operation after the wooden bridge over the Pee Dee River was constructed in 1925.

Although detailed records of its existence are relatively obscure, the remains of a plantation settlement dating as early as the 1720s was uncovered during the archeological dig. During this time period, the property had several owners including the Pawleys, Waties,

Hulls, and Alstons. In 2010, during an archeological field study by Coastal Carolina University, workers uncovered several glass beads, typical of eighteenth and nineteenth century settlements of this type, and several clay beads that are unique in the archaeological record of enslaved and free African and African American people. It is thought that these clay beads were made on Yauhannah Bluff and mimicked the more popular glass beads.

Many of the artifacts recovered on the plantation site, some of which are on display in the visitor center, reflect the wealth of the planter and include fragments of ceramics, jewelry, a coin, eye glass fragment, buttons, and eating utensils. One of the more noteworthy finds was a rare 1722 coin known as the Rosa Americana, which was likely dropped at the site sometime between 1722 and the 1730s.

According to “The Coinage of William Wood: 1722-1733” by Phillip Nelson, Wood, an Englishman, succeeded in obtaining an indenture from King George I to produce coins for Ireland and the American

Colonies in 1722. The Rosa Americana was made up of a mixture of alloys including zinc, copper, and silver and consequently they were less than half the weight of their English counterparts. The colonists largely rejected these new coins and Woods stopped minting them in 1723 because he could not make a profit. It is very possible that this coin was dropped by Percival Pawley.



Artifacts provide a Window into the Past at Yauhannah. Credit: New South Associates

One of the primary themes for the exhibit in the environmental education center is man’s role in shaping the environment. Because of the sensitivity of this site, the Refuge has gone to great lengths to shift the new facility away from all known archeological resources as well as to avoid the remainder of the bluff which was not excavated.

Bridges to the Past

If a landscape could, it would sing ... “Time, time, time – look what has become of me” ... and the rest is history, unfolding the past of how the wildlife, the forest, and the people who have inhabited it, have changed with time. History is remembering the story of what happened.

Like the famous South Carolina writer, Havilah Babcock, once described a sunrise, “forever old and forever new”, a landscape is always and it is never the same.

Many centuries ago, Native Americans inhabited the shorelines of the Santee River. They were part of the Mississippian Mound Culture, known for building high, earthen mounds for ceremonial use and burial sites. They were the “Cofitachequi” people.

When the Spanish Conquistadors began exploring the midlands of South Carolina in the 1540’s, they encountered the Cofitachequi near Santee. Other Spanish and European explorers soon followed. By the early 1700’s, the British had laid claim to the land and were colonizing the landscape. When early European settlers arrived, they encountered huge flocks of Carolina Parakeets and Passenger Pigeons, abundant game and fish, and immense forests.

Seventy years later, American colonial patriots battled along the same shorelines with British forces during the American Revolutionary War. It was 1780. British Col. John Watson built an outpost atop the 35-foot high Santee Indian Mound, now named Fort Watson, to monitor the rivers and roads as cargo and troops traveled between Charleston and Camden. Brig. Gen. Thomas Sumter had made several unsuccessful attempts to take the Fort. In 1781, Brig. General Francis “Swamp Fox” Marion and Lt. Colonel Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee took over Fort Watson in an 8-day battle. Major Maham of Marion’s Legion built a log tower with a platform and positioned it within range of the Fort. The tower allowed the patriots to fire into the fort, thus hastening the surrender of the British.

Within 200 years of the first European contact, the Santee Indians had dispersed from their native home along the Santee River, leaving behind only their legacy and a few remnants of their presence. The Passenger Pigeons and Carolina Parakeets are now extinct and the ancient



The ponds at Santee Refuge support wood ducks, other migratory waterfowl, and many other bird species. Credit: USFWS



Visitors of all ages are drawn to the Santee Indian Mound. Credit: Marc Epstein

river system, which drained the continent from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the sea, has been dammed to generate hydroelectric power for South Carolina. In the process, the area was transformed into a vast interior lake system, known today as the Santee Cooper Lakes. This dramatic change led to the birth of the Santee NWR as mitigation for the environmental impacts of the lake project.

The landscape has changed dramatically in these many years, from the wild areas where the Paleo-Indian encountered Woolly Mammoths, Mastodons, and Ground Sloths 10,000 years ago, to the tribal home of the Santee Indians, to European settlement communities of early colonists.

A portion of the landscape that was once home to Native and Colonial American

communities is preserved today at Santee NWR. When school groups and other visitors come by, one of the first landmarks they see is Fort Watson, the 35-foot high, flat-topped Native American Indian mound. 1500 years ago, the Santee Indians carried dirt to build the mound, one basketful at a time, at a special place along the banks of the Santee River.

The wildlife and habitats that were appreciated and revered by the Santee people have evolved with time. With deep respect for our past, we pass that appreciation to visitors through interpretation programs. We continue to safeguard the land, rich with culture and natural resources, for present and future generations.

Mill Island's Contributions to a Youthful America

Sheltered from the erosive forces of the Atlantic Ocean by Cape Island, and nestled within the expansive estuary of Cape Romain NWR, is a small 422-acre island known historically as Marsh Island. Today the island is part of a network of islands, tidal creeks, and salt marsh that supports a vast array of seabirds, shorebirds, fish, shellfish, reptiles and mammals. In the tumultuous era following the American Revolution, when South Carolina's rice industry was in its infancy, Marsh Island contributed to America's prosperity.

In the 1700's, Marsh Island, the surrounding islands, and salt marsh, were owned by Thomas Lynch. He was a rice planter at Hopsewee Plantation on the banks of the North Santee River who served as a delegate to the Continental Congress. His son, Thomas Lynch Jr., signed the Declaration of Independence after the elder Lynch died of a stroke in 1776. Thomas Jr. was lost at sea three years later, on a sea voyage.

To Mr. Jonathan Lucas at Wind Mill

Favor by Capt. Rea, with 6 pigeons

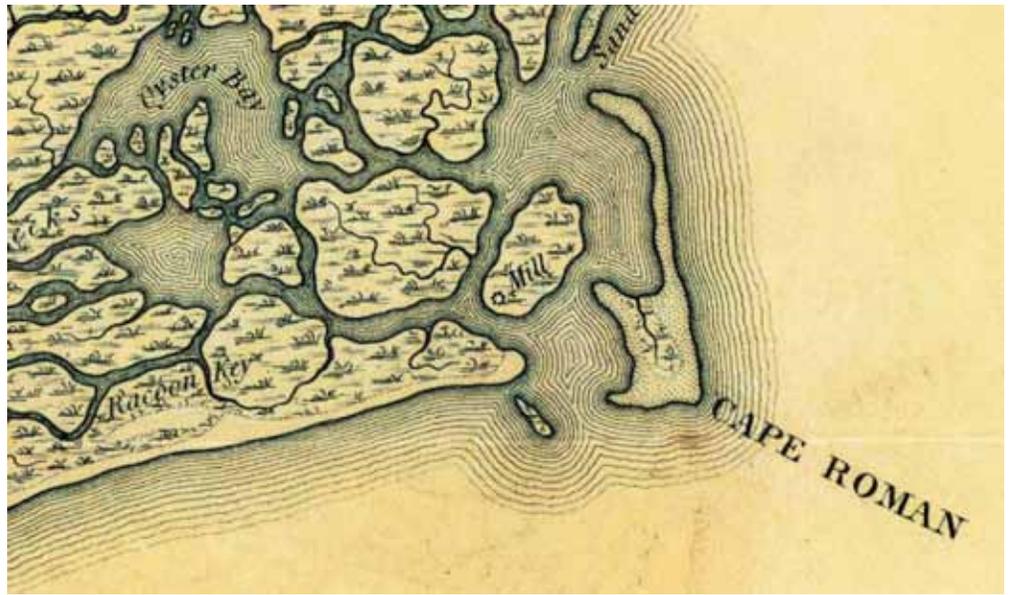
Dear Sir, Charleston, Sept 15, 1792

By Capt. Rea I have sent you 6 pigeons, I am not certain whether they are paired or not, should they not be so, those that do not breed, send them back and I will endeavor to match them for you. I am Sir, your most obedient servant,

Anthony Simon

"The Lucases of Haddrells Point" by Alexander L. Lofton, 1998

Upon Thomas Jr.'s death, Marsh Island and other Lynch holdings were passed to his sister, Sabina Lynch. Sabina later married John Bowman, educated son of the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Scotland.



The wind-powered saw mill on Mill Island is depicted on Robert Mill's 1825 Atlas.

Their union would set in motion a series of events that shaped the course of South Carolina's history.

The first event occurred on King Street in Charleston. Bowman noticed a working windmill perched on a store gable and inquired within. He learned that Jonathan Lucas, a recent arrival in America, had constructed the windmill. Lucas, who was a skilled millwright from Cumberland, England, had ended up in South Carolina in 1784 by happenstance, having been on his way to the Caribbean when the ship was blown off course and he was shipwrecked near the mouth of the Santee River.

Following their meeting in Charleston, Bowman hired Lucas in 1787 to construct what would be the first water-powered rice pounding mill on Peach Island Plantation on the Santee River. The Plantation was a gift from Thomas Lynch

Sr. to Thomas Jr., upon his marriage to Sally Shubrick, and it had been passed to Sabina when Thomas Jr. died.

Lucas' rice pounding mill "cleaned" the rice (removed the outer husk) far faster than manual methods. His invention would soon be used on other plantations as well, leading to great prosperity and wealth throughout the rice planters' region. In 1847, rice cultivation in South Carolina yielded 146,260 tierces (87.8 million lbs.) of rice worth about \$60.3 million by today's standards. South Carolina's rice industry would gain prominence, peaking in rice production in the decades leading up to the Civil War.

Bowman then hired Lucas to construct a saw mill on Marsh Island. The island was readily accessible by boat, in close proximity to the mouth of the Santee River, and had immediate access to wind energy that could be harnessed at little cost.

Lucas accepted the offer and moved to Marsh Island where he lived during construction. His son, William (later of Wedge Plantation) was born there in 1789.

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Cape Romain's expansive wilderness extends as far as the eye can see. Credit: Steve Hillebrand

Mill Island's Contributions to a Youthful America

continued

When the project began, Marsh Island became known as Mill Island. Lucas coordinated his construction needs with the mainland by letter and passenger pigeon. The finished project has been described as a Dutch-style wooden windmill fitted onto a brick tower. There is some indication that Lucas re-purposed a windmill he had built for Bowman earlier on Hog Island in Charleston Harbor, to complete the project.

The windmill blades were attached to a 16-foot iron shaft and a second horizontal shaft operated several reciprocating saw blades.

After Lucas completed the saw mill in 1792, logs were rafted down the Santee River and then to Mill Island, where they were sawn into lumber. From Mill Island the lumber was shipped to Charleston, Georgetown, and elsewhere, producing raw materials for a rapidly growing State.

For nearly 30 years, the saw mill on Mill Island produced lumber. Confusion often arose when ships sailing near the coast mistook the saw mill for a lighthouse. When the second lighthouse was built on Northeast Raccoon Key in 1857, the remains of the old mill were removed. The mill's 16-foot shaft and gear are now on display on the lawn at the Village Museum in McClellanville, SC (<http://www.villagemuseum.com/>)

In 1932, one hundred forty years after Mill Island's saw mill supported construction in South Carolina's Lowcountry, the unique habitat values of the Lynch family's former land holdings were recognized. The island and surrounding marsh were included in the newly created Cape Romain Migratory Bird Refuge.

Two hundred twenty years after Lucas's saw mill operated on Mill Island, the area was designated by the Wilderness Act as the Cape Romain Class I Wilderness Area.

Today when you boat past Mill Island, or view it from afar, recall the days of long ago, when rice plantations ruled South Carolina, America's freedom from British rule was in its youth, and Mill Island worked to transform logs into lumber for a growing nation.

Snapshots in Time

Waccamaw NWR

On September 4, 1780, Colonel Peter Horry, for whom Horry County is named, crossed the Waccamaw River at James Grier's Ferry with 59 men and ate breakfast with Mr. Grier. Colonel Horry recorded the event as follows: "This certifies that I have received of Mr. James Grier a sheep, five pints of rum, breakfast for nine officers, ferriage for fifty-eight horses & fifty men, for the use of the Division of Col. Marion's Regiment under my Command." The Ferry name changed with a subsequent owner, Mr. Cox. Today this site at Waccamaw NWR is known as the Cox Ferry Lake Recreation Area.

Cape Romain NWR

In 1893 the US Light House Board sounded the alarm on the Bulls Island Lighthouse. "The sea has in the past two years made rapid encroachments on this station, and if it continues two years more the light-house will be in great danger. The value of the structures does not warrant a large expenditure for the protection of the site; hence, in the event of continued erosion, it is proposed that a new site be purchased and a new light-house erected rather than an attempt be made to preserve the site." By 1900, the lighthouse on Bulls Island was gone.

ACE Basin NWR

The Grove Plantation was built by George Washington Morris in 1828. During the Civil War it was occupied by Confederate troops and shelled. Two rooms were damaged. Today the historic antebellum mansion serves as the Headquarters for ACE Basin NWR. Visitors approach the mansion via an unpaved road that ends at the rear of the house. The front door of the mansion faces the river where most visitors would have arrived during the 1700's and 1800's.

Waccamaw NWR

With the help of The Nature Conservancy, Waccamaw NWR acquired Yauhannah Bluff in 2002. The location for the new facility was based on the simple fact that it would allow the Refuge to provide educational opportunities for the Georgetown, Horry, and Marion County communities at Bucksport, Carver's Bay, Brown's Ferry, and Plantersville.

Santee NWR

The Indian Mound at Santee NWR was built between 1200 and 1500 AD. It was a site of reverence and importance for the Santee Indians. Later, the mound served



*Grove Plantation, Headquarters for Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin NWR.
Credit: Brandon Coffey*

an important role during the American Revolution as the first fortified British military post in South Carolina. The Post was recaptured by the Patriots after the British occupation of 1780. In 1969 the Indian Mound was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cape Romain NWR

In 1707, South Carolina's General Assembly appointed lookouts on Bulls Island as protection from the pirates who hid out in Bulls Bay. ACT No 261 stated "... Mr. Benjamin Webb, Jr. shall appoint a watch on Bull's Island, consisting of one white man and two Sewee or other neighbouring Indians. . . .for any sum not exceeding forty shillings. . . for a canoe for the use of the watch on Bull's Island." A fortification was also constructed on Sheepshead Ridge overlooking Jack's Creek and Bull's Harbor. It is believed that the structure, which was used to signal the approach of a private ship, was fashioned after an Italian Martello tower.

Santee NWR

Beginning in the late 1940's, Southern St. James Bay Canada geese began to winter on the Santee National Wildlife Refuge. The number of winter geese peaked at 39,000-40,000 birds by the mid 1960's. However, in the years that followed, and up to 1987, the refuge saw a 96% decrease in wintering Geese. Since 1990 only

1,000-1,200 St. James Bay Canada geese winter in and around the Santee National Wildlife Refuge.

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