

in this home for five years. His bedroom was the room, according to family lore, called Cousin Alice's Room.

This room was way in the back of the house next to the attic stairs—probably because Alice's visits were infrequent, although highly prized, and all of the other rooms were taken by those living in the home. Alice was the important, wealthy, colorful relative. Stories of her exploits, prestigious contacts, travels, real estate holdings and litigations made for much speculation, comment and curiosity, leading to heightened anticipation of a visit from Cousin Alice.

An important member at the family reunion Sanderson attended two years ago was John Matthias, a professor of literature at Notre Dame University, who is also a prose writer and poet. In 1994, Kathleen Guthrie from Salter Path contacted John when she was a student at East Carolina writing her thesis, *Alice Hoffman: Queen of Bogue Banks*, for her master of arts in history. This request for information about Alice Hoffman evidently prompted family memories, and John decided to write about Alice.

John Matthias's father had left behind a box of memorabilia pertaining to Alice because he had been Alice's attorney for a while. In the box, among other things, were a photo of a very young grandfather Matthias and his wife on the porch of Alice Hoffman's Bogue Banks home and an article describing Bogue Banks as "a thirty-mile-long sandy spit, running east and west and separated from the mainland—or 'country' as the bankers called it—by Bogue Sound. For generations Salter Path remained, for all practical purposes, isolated from the rest of the world . . . so isolated that their very speech retains the flavor of Elizabethan pronunciation. Not even the oldest resident knows how long the settlers have been here."

John Matthias, the professor and writer, was Alice's distant cousin. Growing up, he would visit his grandfather's large, dark Victorian house where the bedrooms were named for family members. Working on becoming a poet/writer, he decided to write about Cousin Alice in a piece that he admitted to fictionalizing a bit. His "Who Was Cousin Alice?" is in print in the *Chicago Review*, Spring 2009. It contains many family impressions of Alice and her visits to the Matthias home in Ohio.



Alice's Ohio relatives in 1925.

As I sat at the computer reading his amusing family descriptions and anecdotes, I just laughed out loud. This John Matthias is indeed a very good writer.

Ed Sanderson is coming again to Pine Knoll Shores to speak to the ladies of Pine Knoll Shores' Women's Club at the September meeting and to read some of John Matthias's memoirs. Sanderson will talk about his connection to Alice, the Green family's relation to his family, and Fanny the cook's impression of Alice Hoffman. He will also read some amusing excerpts from Cousin John Matthias's article "Who Was Cousin Alice?"

Ed Sanderson is not the only person who contacted me with information about Alice Hoffman. Pine Knoll Shores resident Dave Huffman worked for Don Brock in the early to mid-80s as Sales Manager at Beacon's Reach. Since it was known that he always loved the history of the area, Alice Hoffman and the Roosevelts, Dave Huffman was invited to cruise Bogue Sound with Brock, along with Teddy Roosevelt III and his wife Ann, on Brock's 21-foot boat during one of the Roosevelt family's annual visits. By Huffman's account, it seems as though it was a very congenial visit all around. Perhaps there are other residents willing to share similar stories that will help us to understand and appreciate the legacy of Alice Hoffman and the Roosevelt family and their influence on our community.

People new to Pine Knoll Shores may be unfamiliar with its history, with the Roosevelt and Hoffman connections and their impact on the development of this environmentally preserved and protected community. Those interested may obtain the booklet *The History of Pine Knoll Shores* and the compiled series written about Alice Hoffman entitled *Queen Alice*, at town hall.

In a serialized story *A Woman in a Man's World*, published in 1973 in *The News Times*, author Jan Rider explains Alice's love and respect for nature and its preservation by describing a conversation Alice Hoffman had with Ira Guthrie, one of her employees:

"Ira, Mrs. Hoffman said, 'you have children, don't you?'"

'Yes ma'am,' Ira said.

'Do you love them?'"

'Well, yes ma'am,' Ira answered.

'Well, I love every tree, every animal and every grain of sand on Bogue Banks just as much as you love your children. I don't want to see them destroyed or harmed. Do you understand?'"

While Pine Knoll Shores has changed since Alice's day, changed since it was envisioned and developed by the Roosevelt family, and many feel even more changes have to be made to accommodate modern living conditions, most of us here in Pine Knoll Shores do "understand," Alice.

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