

STUDENTS DISCOVER DUPLIN'S HERITAGE

James Kenan High School senior Mitchell Kernstine views himself as a typical student and knows he would never have visited Liberty Hall or Cowan Museum in Kenansville had there not been a folk art class in Duplin County this year.



Mitchell Kernstine

"Duplin County means more to me now than it ever has," said Mitchell Kernstine, one of 10 Duplin high school seniors participating in the folk arts program. The class is the only one of its kind in North Carolina designed especially to expose high school seniors to traditional forms of folk entertainment, material cultural and arts and crafts, and family folklore. "Before the program began I didn't know what Liberty Hall or the Cowan Museum were all about."

Folklife students work weekends at Liberty Hall, the restored southern plantation home of the Kenan family, as tour guides. The students also spend Saturdays at the Cowan Museum working with curator George Cowan to record historical data on the items displayed.

"Mr. Cowan has a story for every item; it's amazing all the knowledge he has, and we (folk arts students) are trying to record as much as we can in order to preserve it for the future," Mitchell smiled. "Mr. Cowan is great, he never runs out of new stories, he's had an experience for every one of our questions."

The folk art class was designed in connection with the North Carolina Scholars program to provide high school credit in art education for Duplin students. While some of the 10 students need the arts credits provided by the folklife class, Mitchell said his interest in history drew him into the program. Mitchell plans to graduate as a North Carolina Scholar but received the required art education credits in the James Kenan music department as a member of the chorus.

The students select one area of folk art to research during the year. Mitchell chose a project in material culture which includes artifacts and architecture. Folk artist Stacy Andrews became a major source of information in Mitchell's study of handmade wood shingles. Other students in the class found Duplin folk artists Ray Flowers builds his own musical instruments, Elli Carlton crafts corn shucks into chair bottoms and Annie Lewis can recall events from her lifetime and stories told her as a child. And, these Duplin artists became a basis for a film written, directed and produced by the folk art class.

"The film was not planned as part of the class," Mitchell said. "And

the film really drew us together and broadened our exposure in the folk art class. Without the production of the film, I would never have been involved in the projects other students were researching. Filming the student narrative at Liberty Hall and folk artists on the surrounding grounds and spinning wheels and George Cowan at the Cowan Museum more than three hours of footage had to be edited into less than a 15-minute program, Mitchell said. The end resulted with two showings of the film, "Our Rich Inheritance: A Study of Duplin County's Regional Folklife" on the public television channel.



SPLITTING WOOD FOR MAKING SHINGLES

Stacy Andrews of Cedar Fork was one of five folk artists featured in a film aired on the North Carolina public television station Feb. 21 and 28. The film, entitled "Our Rich Inheritance: A Study of Duplin County's Regional Folklife," was written, directed and produced by the Duplin County folk arts class. A group of 10 high school seniors make up the folk arts class which is coordinated by Shirley Gaskins. Stacy Andrews is pictured above in an appearance last year at the Duplin County Fair in Kenansville where he demonstrated the art of making wooden shingles.

"Usually it seems things get better the year after you get out," Mitchell said. "But this program is one thing I am glad didn't get started the year after, because I really enjoyed learning about my heritage." The students participating in the pilot folk art program include Mitchell, Carlton Smith and Cynthia Middleton of James Kenan High School, John Lewis of North Duplin, Camille Grady and Andy Maready of East Duplin, and Elaine Uzzell, Anita Conrad, Karen Hanchey and Nanda English of Wallace-Rose Hill. The program is coordinated by Shirley Gaskins and meets after normal school hours.

D.C. Maxwell, J.D.; Joseph Carr, treasurer; William Farrior, secretary; N.J. Farrior, Tyler. O.R. Kenan, Joseph Carr, Henry Grimes and William Farrior were appointed a committee to draft by-laws and rules of order for the government of the lodge. The lodge was rechartered December 9, 1852.

From the report of Warren Lodge No. 101 in 1852 it is noted that the report is headed "General Returns from Warren Lodge No. 101 Ancient York Masons."

On Feb. 10, 1855 a resolution was introduced providing that the Master of the lodge be authorized to subscribe for and in behalf of this lodge \$100 to the Female Seminary to be built in Kenansville and the treasurer be instructed to pay the same out of lodge funds. This resolution was passed and adopted March 10th.

At the meeting held July 10, 1858, Brother William B. Middleton was appointed to solicit subscriptions for the purpose of building a new lodge building.

On Jan. 8, 1859 the following resolution was adopted: "Resolved that Thomas S. Watson be allowed from the evidence he has produced of his having been entered, passed and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason by Lodge No. 97, Edinburgh, Scotland, to be entered, passed and raised in this lodge without paying initiation fee and be allowed membership by paying three dollars."

May 7, 1859, a motion was made and passed that Martha Hammond Abernethy be sent to school at the expense of the lodge for one session.

The present lodge building was erected in 1860, and the dedication was set for Dec. 27, 1860.

The following is a copy of minutes from an unusual meeting on March 21, 1861: "The lodge was opened in due form on the third degree of Masonry. A petition from Mr. Kedar Bryan was presented accompanied with the requisite fee of \$20. For the benefit and instruction of the lodge a dispensation was granted by Brother S.W. Neal, G.S., to receive and ballot on said petition, whereupon the following committee of investigation was appointed: Thomas S. Watson, Johnathan Chestnutt, and J.W. Hinson, who reported favorably. A ballot being held resulted in his election. There being no further business the lodge was dispensed with on the third degree of Masonry and opened in due form on the first degree of Masonry. Mr. K. Bryan who had just been balloted for, being in waiting, was duly prepared, introduced and initiated as an Entered Apprentice. There being no further business before this lodge, it was dispensed with and opened in due form on the second degree of Masonry when Brother K. Bryan being in waiting, was duly prepared, introduced and passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft. There being no further business before this lodge in this degree it was dispensed with and resumed labor on the third degree of Masonry when Brother K. Bryan being in waiting was duly prepared, introduced and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The lodge then called off

from labor to refreshment until 7 p.m." When the lodge resumed labor Brother A.H. Parker was raised.

At a meeting held Aug. 8, 1863, the following committee, William A. Allen, William Farrior and Kedar Bryan offered this resolution: "Whereas, the Masonic Fraternity and particularly the members of Warren Lodge No. 101 have heard that their Brother William J. Houston, Captain of Company One, Ninth Regiment North Carolina Cavalry was killed in the late battle near Ashby's Gap, and whereas the members of said lodge feel that it is due the gallant and distinguished services of their late brother, that they should express their high appreciation of the noble qualities of head and heart of the deceased. Therefore, resolved that this lodge, in the death of Captain Houston, has lost one of its most distinguished members, the people at large, one of their most gifted citizens and successful legislators, and the services of the Confederate States one of its

bravest officers.

Resolved, that in common with our fellow citizens, we deplore the loss of our distinguished brother and friend and will ever cherish a fond recollection of his noble qualities as the perfect gentleman, and hereby tender to his afflicted wife and family our heartfelt condolence in this their service trial.

Resolved, that the members of this lodge will wear the usual badge of Masonic mourning for 30 days in memory of our deceased brother.

Resolved, that the secretary of this lodge be requested to furnish a copy of these resolutions to the Wilmington Journal, and also a copy to the afflicted wife and family of the deceased. The Raleigh Register and Fayetteville Observer will please copy and send bill to the Wilmington Journal office."

On March 12, 1864 a motion was made and carried that all monies in the hands of the secretary and treasurer belonging to the Lodge be funded in four percent bonds of the Confederate States.

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Along The Way



By Emily Killete

The St. John's Lodge in Kenansville was founded only three and a half years after the Grand Lodge of North Carolina and in 1941 local citizens celebrated St. John's 150th birthday.

Along the Way began a series last week of the history of St. John's Lodge as written by Mr. Faison McGowen for the 150th birthday celebration. The original history was read during the celebration by A.T. Outlaw, then register of Deeds for Duplin County, and was published in THE DUPLIN TIMES newspaper. The second part of the history series

appeared in the July 3, 1941 issue of DUPLIN TIMES and follows.

On May 1, 1852, Warren Lodge No. 101 was organized with the following officers: G.W. Wallace, W.M.; O.R. Kenan, S.W.; Henry Grimes, Jr., J.W.; J.H. Judge, S.D.;

B.A.S.S. CLUB FORMING

An organizational meeting to form B.A.S.S. fishing club will be held on Thursday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Quinn's Variety Store in Kenansville. Anyone interested in bass fishing is urged to attend.

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