

Faith (Independent) Methodist Church

Date: Nov. 18

Location: Wenona, Deal Island

Topics: Oyster/Ham supper, Deal Island, Daniels Family, Capt. Art Daniels, Singing, Barthalemeus and the blind man, Sonny Benton, Charlie Clarkson, Stan Daniels, Capts' Walt and Delmas Benton,

#### Summary:

Attended Homecoming service at Capt. Art Daniels church. Attendance included just about every member of the Daniels family including all of Capt. Art Daniel's sisters. Sonny Benton led the service and prayers, but Capt. Daniels gave the message. There were also several singing sessions, Capt. Daniels with his son Stan, Capt. Daniels with his wife Ladell????? and the ??????. After the service, there was an Oyster/Ham supper in the community room. Highlights of the day included the prayers and songs all of which focused on the island, fishing and the sea, and a special thank you for the oysters where Rev. Benton lists all the community members who made the supper happen.

#### Finding Aid

Topics: Oyster/Ham supper, Deal Island, Daniels Family, Capt. Art Daniels, Singing, Barthalemeus and the blind man, Sonny Benton, Charlie Clarkson, Stan Daniels, Capts' Walt and Delmas Benton,

#### Field Notes:

Nov. 18 Sun. Deal Island. Wenona. Attended Homecoming service at Art Daniels church. NOTES.

Recording notes: Used Minidisc and mono Marantz. Set up stereo cardioids on Gooseneck at back of church because of speakers on the front wall. Stand got moved against the pew after greeting and I didn't notice it until part way into the service. Some banging on pew by restless great grandkids caused interference as well as walking. Marantz set beside Meagan on Pew. Sometimes we held the mike- Shure 57.

Arrived early, Meagan came with me. Went by Arby's Bait shop- "It is not the end of the world but you can see it from here." He talked about the meteor shower, he got up at 5 which was heart of shower and it was clear there, so he saw all of it. Some with tails some just falling. He told us about a tour of kids he took around, showed them where things were, how things have changed. BD "I'd like that tour one day." He talked some about the skipjacks with Meagan- using the terms, "We've got..now." That would be Somerset, Ida May (at the bridge), Thomas Clyde and ?? Photos of skipjacks, ark/shanty. Later shots of Arvy's sign, power dredge set up, float tanks, churches and homes, produce stands.

Notes on Family relationships: Figure out relationships here Stan Daniels is Capt. Stan - not son, he is the singing Captain and he is a Daniels. Saw the son and wife Ruth with children at Church. Met Bentons, ? Mike? and Chantelle, he is special grandson and their kids are great grandkids. At the service, all of Capt. Daniels' sisters were there. Met Ladelle his wife, who he loves very much. Married 61 years, childhood sweethearts. He had five children. Bentons are related by marriages- Walt? Delmas?

Charlie's girlfriend Janey? but he has children and so does she. Are they their children? Also invited, son really interested, I don't think son is Charlie's, the little girl is.

Church was decorated with flags that lined the walkway. Met Sonny Benton, Pastor of the Church. Today is 4<sup>th</sup> homecoming service (16 years) at Faith Independent. Benton family singers "she could have gone to Nashville, her natural voice is like Patsy Cline." She does Elvis imitations though. The man in group is first singer for service. (God Bless America?)

Interior of church was decorated with Red White and Blue bows all along the back of the wall. RWB Floral arrangement. And the program has Jesus and Eagle equally represented on the front.

Sonny shared with us the "storybook wedding" at Perry Cabin that he performed last week. "Married like Royalty" member of Red Skins organization, little girl had been to his church when she was 12 and wanted him to marry her.

Charlie Clarkson was at door and one of the sisters teased him about his coat and tie- "she only sees me in my oil skins."

Meagan mentioning the women leaving the service early to set up the food.

The community room where the women meal was served is located to the right of the church, it was filled with tables and we could barely get through. Food on the serving table between kitchen and room- two lines, tea on one end and women helping out in kitchen moving things, washing dishes.

Dinner Oysters and Ham. Fried Oysters laid out in rows on top of each other in large Tin Foil Baking bins. Ham was sliced med thin and laid in spiral around a center butt end on a round tray. Both Ham and oysters were at the end of the food row. At the beginning were plates, bowls, plastic silverware, then the pot luck dishes. Potato salads, cole slaw, a broccoli salad with bacon, Mac and cheese, rolls different sizes in same bowl. I didn't try stew/soup but I saw it. Cakes at side counter, spice cake, sticky buns, brownies, store bought decorated \_\_\_\_\_, Meagan "I was there and women kept pointing out what they made so I kept getting them."

Charlie Clarkson is working on either Walt's or Delmas's boat right now. He says the oystering is good now, but if it slows down around Dec. and he can't make 100 a day, he thinks he'd like to come and volunteer with Mike. He really was impressed with Mike's work, all the tools he had for Caulking especially. On the island, they don't have as many different ones, they just use one and jam it in with that regardless. Mike had

different shapes so he could get into the seam well and that impressed him. We talked some about the systems of maintenance and problems there on island. Not enough people or space, two people for all those boats, railway carriages are too small for one of the boats, they pick and choose whose boat they want to work on- As C. says 'these are some of the reasons the boats don't get the maintenance they want to give them.'

Met Mike P. from Univ. Maryland. Told him he needs a folklorist. They are having a meeting with Elaine this week. Mary Hufford on their Advisory Committee. I mentioned Ormond Loomis. He is going to e-mail me an article which talks about their chip removal digital recording. They are doing a life history of Eddin Willing. (Not Art Daniels) Will produce a book, I recommended using our archive as a repository for tapes. "Don't want to duplicate" Also something having to do with Lion's club- starting ???

Tape listening.

Introductory Prayer "We thank you Lord for leading us to this island."