

How The Smith's Island Community of Tylerton Got It's Name

By Jennings Evans

The Smith's Island community known today as Tylerton, was known in earlier days as Drum Point. Actually Drum Point was located on the southern tip of the community, where only a few residents live today. The most populated area, where the Union Memorial Church is located today, was known as Black Walnut.

However, as the years passed by, neither of those names seemed no longer appropriate for the isolated island community. By the year 1885, the islanders seemed ready to accept the name of Tylerton for its postoffice. John Tyler the Elder (B.1665-D.1717) was the first permanent settler to own land sold to him by a Virginia tobacco planter Henry Smith in 1686.

In the year 1700, Tyler had his island land marked, by hiring a group of island men dig a deep trench around his property to separate his land from his closest neighbor John Evan's land. It was later known to islanders as Tyler's ditch,

It's still known today on all Smith's Island maps and charts as Tyler's Ditch. Over 300 years later, the island's severe erosion has widened Tyler's Ditch so wide, that it separated Tyler's land from the other two island communities, known as Rhodes Point, and Ewell. Tyler's Ditch is now so wide that it has become the gateway by boat to John Tyler's island, now known appropriately as Tylerton.

How Smith's Island Community of Tylerton Got It's Name

By Jennings Evans

The Smith's Island community known today as Tylerton, was known in earlier days as Drum Point. Actually, Drum Point was located on the southern tip of the community where only a few residents live today. The most populated area, where the Union Memorial Church is located today, was known as Black Walnut.

However, as the years passed by, neither of these names seemed appropriate for the isolated island Community. By the year 1885, the islanders seemed ready to accept the name of Tylerton for it's postoffice. John Tyler the Elder (B.1665-D.1717) a carpenter from England was first permanent settler to own island land sold to him for 9000 pounds of tobacco by a Virginia tobacco planter Capt Henry Smith in 1686. Smith at one time owned the entire island and named it for himself, "The Capt. Henry Smith Estatee."