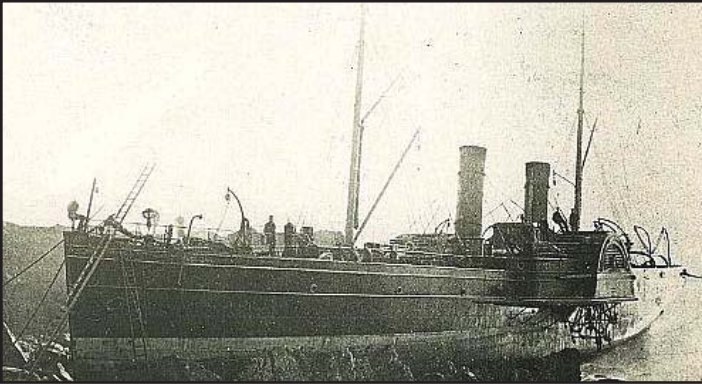


Charlotte Fire Department to the rescue with 3D imaging to confirm boat identity

The location is right. The size is right. The correct pieces of the vessel are missing. These are contributing facts that lead archaeologists with the N.C. Office of State Archaeology to suspect that a shipwreck recorded Sat., Feb. 27, just off Oak Island is the blockade runner Agnes E. Fry, one of three Civil War shipwrecks thought to be in the area. A more sophisticated 3D sonar device will soon come to the aid of the underwater researchers, thanks to the Charlotte Fire Department, to help to confirm this boat's identity.



"As a result of the worldwide media attention that the discovery of the Agnes E. Fry has generated, we have received an incredibly generous offer from Capt. J.D. Thomas of the Charlotte Fire Department Special Operations/EMS Command," says Deputy State Archaeologist Billy Ray Morris. "Through his efforts, the latest version of a 3D sonar imaging device will be available for our use in this archaeological investigation." Capt. Thomas and a team of five search and rescue divers will assist the state's maritime archaeologists the week of April 18.

"Fry was 236 feet long, and the vessel remains we have are 225 feet in length. The other runners, Georgianna McCaw and Spunkie are both considerably shorter and a much earlier design than Fry," says Morris. "The boiler type, as well as the hull design of the wreck are both indicative of a more modern vessel than either McCaw or Spunkie. The difference in the lengths has to do with the damage to the bow and stern."

The initial side scan sonar images were generated during remote sensing operations aboard the IIMR survey vessel, Atlantic Surveyor, Feb. 27. Detailed analysis of this sonar image shows a 225 foot vessel structure with both engines and the paddlewheel shaft missing. This fits precisely with salvage records and the March 22 underwater site inspection.

"Every piece of evidence we have examined to date, from sonar images to primary documentation, points directly to this shipwreck being Agnes E. Fry," concludes Dr. Gordon Watts, IIMR director. "We look forward to working with the Charlotte team to confirm our suspicions."

Capt. Thomas arranged for the company that provides sonar systems for his dive team to bring the latest version of a sector scanning imaging sonar to the underwater researchers. Brian Abbott, president of Nautilus Marine Group International and the equipment's owner, will accompany the dive team on site to operate the equipment.

"This instrument will allow us to make a complete, multi-dimensional map of the site in a matter of days," Morris explains. "Unlike usual methods, imaging sonar does not require good visibility and is considerably faster than on-site mapping. Visibility underwater on the site is so murky that it rarely exceeds 18 inches." This is the first time this technology will be used in North Carolina on an underwater shipwreck site.

A team of archaeologists from the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Underwater Archaeology Branch and the Institute for International Maritime Research (IIMR) continue to investigate the iron-hulled steamer shipwreck off the N.C. coast. The shipwreck was discovered during a search for the ships lost during the Union campaign to blockade the port of Wilmington during the Civil War. The project is funded by the National Park Service through an American Battlefield Protection Program Grant.

The Underwater Archaeology Branch of the Office of State Archaeology is within the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Pictured above, the Llama, also built by Caird & Co., is believed to be very similar to Agnes E. Fry

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Important Dates for Anson County Early College

This calendar information from Anson County Early College didn't make it into our special Inside Anson County Schools edition last week, so it is presented below.

- **April 30** Anson County Early College Prom at Lockhart-Taylor from 8pm to midnight
- **May 6** Cap and Gown Pictures
- **May 9** Senior Boards (Senior Project Presentations) 6pm
- **May 10** SPCC Classes End
- **May 11** SPCC Graduation at Union County Agriculture Center at 3pm
- **May 24** District Scholarship Night at the Ansonia at 7pm
- **May 25** Awards Day at Lockhart Taylor at 9:30am
- **June 4** Graduation

Bowman Senior High School Class of 1974

The Bowman Senior High School Class of 1974 wants each classmate to submit their current address, telephone number and email address in order for plans to be made for a class reunion. Please send the information to 74bearcats@gmail.com.



Eliyah Michaela Rodgers

SHORT LIFE ... LONG LEGACY

Eliyah Michaela Rodgers was born on August 19, 2013. She looked just like her mother, and her father nicknamed her "Juniorita."

She loved to give and receive lots of hugs and kisses. She was as graceful as a flower and as playful as a bird. She had a spark in her eyes that revealed the love in her heart. Eliyah loved God and her family, and joined with them in the effort of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Her name is a testimony "Eliyah" which means my God is Jehovah and "Michaela" which means one who is like God - and she said it often. She loved to sing her name. She was a "little soldier" on the battlefield for the Lord.

Though her life was cut short on April 14, 2016, her legacy will live on. She was taken from our arms but remains in our hearts. We love her and miss her greatly, and in memory of her life will be even bolder in the furtherance of the everlasting gospel.

In fact, it was in 2001, after having a stillbirth (Carlise) at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, that Cary and Elene's life totally changed. We began studying the Bible like never before and found peace through the Word of God. This led to the beginning of our ministry, Pathway to Peace Ministries, in 2002 with the emphasis of uplifting Jesus Christ throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation for He is our Peace. During this tragedy we continue to turn our eyes on Jesus and find peace in the precious promises of His Holy Bible.

Eliyah is survived by her parents Cary and Elene Rodgers; one sister, Carlene; two brothers, Elijah and Nehemiah; grandparents, Otis and Teresa Rodgers and Fronie Mitchell; great grandparents, Tom and Eudora Mitchell; a very special aunt, Carlene Moody; and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at Pathway to Peace Ministries on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. The address is 11775 Highway 109 South, Peachland, NC. (2 miles past Deep Creek towards Mt. Croghan.)

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