

DVD Number 143



"Turning into Crapo - the Fadeout of Woodlandtown and the Rise of Wingate",

Presented by Dr. Phillip Hesser, Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Through most of the 19th century, the community of Woodlandtown was the spiritual and economic center of South Dorchester. It was the only area landing for the steamboat and the future end point of the Cambridge & Chesapeake Railroad. Yet, by the beginning of the 20th century, it vanished from the maps of the county - its post office oddly renamed Crapo. Its railroad never materialized and its steamboat dock was abandoned in favor of a new one in the up-and-coming community of Wingate. What led to the "death" of Woodlandtown and the appearance of Crapo? How did Wingate become the new hub of South Dorchester? Phil Hesser explored the answers to these questions, as he painted a picture of a changing South Dorchester.

Phillip Hesser, Ph.D., has taught in the US and Africa and served with the UNHCR and the Academy for Educational Development. From time to time, he can be found teaching at Salisbury University and Wor-Wic Community College, and running the Dorchester marshes with his retriever Marshall and hound Bayly. Indulging his interests at the intersection of landscape, life, and livelihood in Delmarva and on the Bay, he wrote *What a River Says: Exploring the Blackwater River and Refuge* (Cambridge: Friends of Blackwater, 2014) and is at work on "The Old Home is not There": The Native Land of Harriet Tubman.