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Barren Island and the Flowers Family, By Jacqueline Simmons Hedberg, 4 February 2009

Jacqueline Simmons Hedberg describes the times when more than 400 people lived on the now deserted Barren Island just west of Upper Hoppers island, Maryland

Jacqueline was born on Hoopers Island, where her family has lived for more than 300 years. In 2000, she organized the Friends of the Old Hoopers Island Graveyard to save the Old Applegarth Cemetery, home to many generations of the Travers, Ruark, and Simmons families. In a program on the families of Barren Island, she brings back to life the days when 400 people lived on the now deserted and much-eroded island offshore from Hoopers Island. One of several once-inhabited barrier islands of the Delmarva, the Chesapeake Bay reclaimed the island from man. The Flowers, Parker and related families called it home, now only seabirds visit.