



**BURWELL SCHOOL HISTORIC SITE  
GIRL SCOUT PATCH PROGRAM**



The Burwell School Historic Site is a historic house museum located in Hillsborough, NC that preserves and interprets the lives of its antebellum residents when the home was a school for young girls.

The Historic Hillsborough Commission, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, owns and operates the Burwell School Historic Site. The Burwell School is open to the public Wednesday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sun 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Girl Scout programs can also be arranged outside of these times.

The Burwell School Girl Scout Patch program was prepared in partnership with the Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines.

For more information about the Burwell School Historic Site, please visit our Web site at [www.burwellschool.org](http://www.burwellschool.org).

## **Burwell School Patch Program**

### **Suggested Activities:**

*Listed below, you will find the patch activities offered by the Burwell School Historic Site. These activities are organized according to troop grade levels. Each troop has to complete all of the activities listed in the first section of their troop grade level. They will also have to complete the required number of elective activities in order to earn their Burwell School Girl Scout patch.*

#### **Girl Scout Daisies**

- Introduction to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Tour of the Site
- Communications in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

##### **Select One:**

- Exercise and Play
- All Dressed Up
- Home Remedies

#### **Girl Scout Brownies**

- Introduction to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Tour of the Site
- Communications in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

##### **Select two:**

- Exercise and Play
- All Dressed Up
- Stitches in Time
- Architectural Scavenger Hunt
- Home Remedies

#### **Girl Scout Juniors**

- Introduction to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Tour of the Site
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century School Lesson
- Communications in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

##### **Select two:**

- All Dressed Up
- Stitches in Time
- Architectural Scavenger Hunt
- The Extraordinary Elizabeth Hobbes Keckly
- Home Remedies
- Antique Furniture Scavenger Hunt

### Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

- Introduction to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Tour of the Site
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century School Lesson

#### Select Three:

- All Dressed Up
- Stitches in Time
- Architectural Scavenger Hunt
- The Extraordinary Elizabeth Hobbes Keckly
- Jumping the Broom and Jarabdash
- Scavenger Hunt at the Old Town Cemetery
- Antique Furniture Scavenger Hunt

### For More Information About the Burwell School Historic Site, to Schedule a Program or to Purchase Your Patch:

Call the Burwell School at 732-7451 or email us at [info@burwellschool.org](mailto:info@burwellschool.org). Also, visit our Web site at [www.burwellschool.org](http://www.burwellschool.org).

### Other Educational Activities in Hillsborough:

There are many other heritage education activities in Hillsborough. To learn more about these programs, contact:

Alliance for Historic Hillsborough  
[www.historichillsborough.org](http://www.historichillsborough.org)

Orange County Historical Museum  
[www.orangecountymuseum.org](http://www.orangecountymuseum.org)

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- Each activity will take 15-30 minutes.
  - Appointments are required, please call 919-732-7451 or email [info@burwellschool.org](mailto:info@burwellschool.org).
  - There is a fee for the Girl Scout patch program activities.
  - Troops are invited to bring a picnic lunch to have on our front lawn (weather permitting).
  - The Burwell School Girl Scout Patch Program is designed for troops. If you wish to earn a patch without your troop, call us for a specialized program.
  - Suggested troop size is 10 or more Girl Scouts; however call us about smaller troops for specialized programs.

Burwell School Patch Program is supported in part by the F.M. Kirby Foundation and the Town of Hillsborough Tourism Board.

*Please rate the activities.*

▪ Introduction to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Tour of the Burwell Residence

really bad   bad   okay   good   great!

▪ Communications in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

really bad   bad   okay   good   great!

▪ 19<sup>th</sup> Century School Lesson

really bad   bad   okay   good   great!

▪ All Dressed Up

really bad   bad   okay   good   great!

▪ Exercise and Play

really bad   bad   okay   good   great!

▪ The Extraordinary Elizabeth Hobbes Keckly

really bad   bad   okay   good   great!

▪ Home Remedies

really bad   bad   okay   good   great!

▪ Stitches in Time

really bad   bad   okay   good   great!

▪ Jumping the Broom and Jarabadash

really bad   bad   okay   good   great!

▪ Architectural Scavenger Hunt

really bad   bad   okay   good   great!

▪ Antique Furniture Scavenger Hunt

really bad   bad   okay   good   great!

▪ Scavenger Hunt at the Old Town Cemetery

really bad   bad   okay   good   great!

## What is Burwell School?

\_\_\_\_\_ In January of 1836, a wagon carrying the Reverend Robert Burwell, his pregnant wife, Margaret Anna, their two children, and an enslaved teenager named Elizabeth Hobbs rolled into Hillsborough from Virginia. \_\_\_\_\_ Shortly after their arrival in 1836, Margaret Anna Burwell began the Burwell School for Young Ladies. \_\_\_\_\_ The school operated between 1837 and 1857 for 20 years and educated many young girls to be “thorough scholars and useful members of the society.”

\_\_\_\_\_ The educational plan of the school had heavy emphasis on penmanship, English grammar, composition, history, and geography. \_\_\_\_\_ Courses in botany, chemistry, astronomy, algebra, geometry, and Latin were also available as well as ‘ornamentals’ such as music, drawing, and French. \_\_\_\_\_ The school’s most prominent focus, however, was on solid moral training and demonstrated personal improvement. \_\_\_\_\_ It is from this focus that the school’s motto sprang: “Not how much but how well.”

\_\_\_\_\_ The Burwells’ School was not only remarkable for its longevity, breadth of curriculum, and diversity of students. \_\_\_\_\_ It can also be said to be one of the most influential 19<sup>th</sup>-century endeavors in women’s education in North Carolina. \_\_\_\_\_ At least seven other North Carolina schools are known to have been founded by former Burwell students and based on the Burwell model of education. \_\_\_\_\_ Additionally, the Burwells themselves went on to teach at two other schools both still in existence today: \_\_\_\_\_ Queen’s College (originally Charlotte Female Institute) in Charlotte and Peace College (originally Peace Institute) in Raleigh.

## Program Descriptions

### Introduction to the 19<sup>th</sup> century

What is a Necessary House? Do bed bugs really exist? All of these questions and more will be answered when you take a trip back in time at the Burwell School. Get acquainted with Robert and Anna Burwell, their children, and the enslaved members of their household. Explore their home and school, and compare their lives to ours today.

### Communications in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

The Burwell family and the students who attended their boarding school did not have the modern communication methods that we have today. How do you think they communicated with their friends and families? Yes, you are right! They wrote letters. Please write a letter and tell us how you spend your days. After you write your letter, put it in an envelope, address it properly and mail it to:

Burwell School  
PO Box 922  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

When you come to visit the Burwell School, we will read letters that were written from the Burwell School and compare the lives of the girls who studied at the Burwell School with yours.

### 19<sup>th</sup> Century School Lesson

Learn about life at the Burwell School from someone who knows it well: Mary Burwell, the eldest child of Rev. and Mrs. Burwell. Acting as Mary Burwell, an interpreter will lead participants through 19th century penmanship, arithmetic, and recitation lessons in our 1837 school building.

### All Dressed Up

Did you ever wonder how long it took girls to get dressed in the clothes they wore long ago? In the “All Dressed Up” portal, participants will learn about the style of dressing for

## Event Evaluation-By Troop

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this evaluation form. The responses given from participants are used to help plan and enhance future events.*

Event Name: Burwell School Girl Scout Patch Program

Date of Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: Hillsborough, NC

If a troop evaluation, how many girls participated? \_\_\_\_\_

Please place a check next to the one which best describes your ethnicity. Troops can include a breakdown by placing the appropriate number of girls in each category.

- \_\_\_\_\_ African-American  
\_\_\_\_\_ American Indian or Alaskan native  
\_\_\_\_\_ Asian or Pacific Islander  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic; regardless of race  
\_\_\_\_\_ White  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other

### Tell us about the event:

Where did you hear about this event?

\_\_\_\_\_ *LEAD On* \_\_\_\_\_ Troop Leader

- The topic and activities at this patch program were interesting to me.  
\_\_strongly agree \_\_agree \_\_uncertain \_\_disagree \_\_strongly disagree
- I had enough time to do the different activities.  
\_\_strongly agree \_\_agree \_\_uncertain \_\_disagree \_\_strongly disagree
- The activity leaders did a good job explaining how to do the activities.  
\_\_strongly agree \_\_agree \_\_uncertain \_\_disagree \_\_strongly disagree
- How much was there to learn during your visit to the Burwell School Historic Site?  
\_\_not enough \_\_enough \_\_too much

**Mary Anne Primrose****Born:** September 13, 1826**Home:** New Bern, NC

**At the Burwell School:** Mary Anne Primrose, who attended the Burwell School for the fall session in 1840 when she was fourteen years old, was likely one of the first boarding students taken in by the Burwells. A letter from her father, Robert Primrose, shows that a progress report had been received from Anna Burwell that highlighted Mary Anne's deficiencies in grammar and made mention of her "disobedience". Her father advised her to "beware of idle and no-care girls, rather cultivate the acquaintance of the studious and intelligent girls..." A letter from her grandfather, M.C. Stephens, later that year urged her to study the "higher branches of education." "But if the woman be interior to the man in bodily strength," he wrote, "he mind is equally vigorous as his. The records of ancient and modern History set this matter beyond doubt and I have known several instances in private life where women have exhibited full as much courage, prudence, and strong sense as any men in like circumstances."

**After the Burwell School:** In November 1850, Mary Anne married Albert Morris Noble. Mary Anne and Albert had one son, Marcus Cicero Stephens Noble, who became a well-known professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. On November 18, 1900, Mary Anne and Albert celebrated their golden wedding anniversary surrounded by their family. Albert died in 1903 and Mary Anne died in 1916 at the age of 90.



everyday life at the Burwell School. Participants will wear their very own aprons. This hands-on portal allows participants to try on different pieces of women's clothing and compare them to the clothing of today. Participants will also compare and contrast the clothing of a Burwell School student with that of an enslaved woman of the same age.

**Exercise and Play**

Actively explore another side of the girls who lived and studied at the Burwell School by learning about exercise and games in the 19th century. Participants will "exercise" in the same way Margaret Anna promoted here at the Burwell School with a brisk walk or dancing. They will also play the outdoor Game of Graces, and enjoy a popular indoor parlor game known as "Cudgel".

**Extraordinary Elizabeth Hobbes Keckly**

Explore the remarkable life of the Burwell School's most well-known African-American resident, Elizabeth Hobbes Keckly. By reading selected passages from Mrs. Keckly's autobiography and mapping out her incredible journey, participants will discover how she went from being an enslaved person in Hillsborough to starting her own dressmaking business, writing an important memoir, and becoming the confidante of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln.

**Home Remedies**

Through letters written from the Burwell School during the Civil War, participants will learn that illness was an everyday occurrence at "the Beehive". Participants will explore the difference between "seeing the doctor" as the Collins family did and practicing herbal remedies. Participants will then create their own herbal remedies such as a vinegar and salt cure for dysentery and a homemade charcoal and honey "tooth polish".

### **Jumping the Broom and Jarabadash**

Learn about the enslaved men and women living and working at the Burwell School through the biographies of individual slaves in the Burwell household. Participants will examine a reproduction slave clothing ensemble and learn to play the African-American game of Jarabadash. Participants will conclude their visit by learning about wedding celebrations of enslaved people and taking part in the traditional African-American custom of “Jumping the Broom”.

### **Scavenger Hunt in the Old Town Cemetery**

Find where some of the students of the Burwell School are buried and get glimpses of their lives through their gravestones.

### **Stitches in Time**

Learn about arts and crafts of the 19th century, particularly the long tradition of sampler making. Experience this staple of schoolgirl life first hand by creating your own sampler to take home.

### **Antique Furniture Scavenger Hunt: A Table with Claws**

Explore the furnishings at the Burwell School with a graphical scavenger hunt.

### **Architectural Scavenger Hunt**

Take a close look at the architectural features of the Burwell Residence.

### **Susan “Suny” Webb**

**Born:** November 18, 1831

**Home:** Stony Point in Orange County, NC (a plantation located a quarter mile south of Bethlehem Presbyterian Church and the Bingham School)

**At the Burwell School:** While she was a student at the Burwell School in 1847, she boarded at Poplar Hill, the home of the Norwood family whose daughters also attended the Burwell School.

**After the Burwell School:** Suny Webb returned to her family’s plantation and opened her own school, which she called the Alameda Schoolhouse, in a small log building. Among her pupils were two of her younger brothers, Sawney and John Maurice, who went on to have distinguished careers. Sawney served as a U.S. Senator from Tennessee and John Maurice founded the Bell Buckle School for Boys. Of his sister as a teacher, Sawney Webb wrote, “Her discipline was rigid. Yet she knew that a child has limits. When she saw that her pupils were tired, she would tell a story or read a beautiful poem. I never saw a little boy leave her school that did not have a love of poetry and good English.” Suny spent over 50 years teaching in the Alameda Schoolhouse. After she stopped teaching, she raised peacocks with one of her brothers.

Suny died in 1905 at the age of 74.

**Robina “Rob” Norwood**

**Born:** July 18, 1835

**Home:** Poplar Hill in Hillsborough, NC

(still standing on the south bank of the Eno River)

**At the Burwell School:**

Robina and her two sisters, Anabella and Margaret, attended the Burwell School as day students beginning about 1849 or 1850. A letter from another student, Mary Pearce, describes her friend

Rob’s daily activities. In November 1851, Mary wrote: “I think that Rob will be an uncommonly smart young lady if she continues in her present course for she devotes a regular part of every day to reading, another to practicing on the piano, a third to sewing, and then, she says, has plenty of time to take exercise and enjoy herself in any way she pleases.”

**After the Burwell School:** At the age of 19, Robina married Thomas Webb, the son of Dr. James Webb who underwrote the cost of building the classroom building for the Burwell’s school in 1837. About 1860, the couple took up residence at the Webb-Long house, which still stands today at 117 East Queen Street. During the Civil War, Thomas Webb served as the President of the North Carolina Railroad. Robina and Thomas had nine children. Robina outlived Thomas by 25 years, dying in 1919 at the age of 84.



**Meet with the students of the Burwell School:**

**Rosanna Berry**

**Born:** 1836

**Home:** Hillsborough, NC

At the Burwell School: Rosanna Berry attended the Burwell School as a day student in the 1850’s and was one of the six daughters of master-builder John Berry. John Berry’s buildings still stand throughout Hillsborough (including the First United Methodist Church and the old Orange County Courthouse) and at the University of NC at



Chapel Hill. John Berry was also likely the builder of the classroom building at the Burwell School and was definitely the builder who enlarged the Burwell’s house in 1848.

According to an oral history of the Berry family, Rosanna was considered to be the most beautiful and charming of all the Berry daughters.

**After the Burwell School:** Rosanna Berry died in 1860 at the age of 24. She is buried in the Berry family plot in Hillsborough’s Old Town Cemetery. Her tombstone is decorated with a lamb and bears the simple inscription “Gone Home.”

### **Susan Moseley Murphy and Mary Bailey Murphy**

**Born:** June 23, 1834 (twins)

**Home:** Cuwhiffle Plantation in Sampson County, NC

**At the Burwell School:** Susan and Mary Murphy were 14 years old when they came to the Burwell School in 1848.

Their jointly written letters home to their mother reveal much about life for a Burwell School student. The girls wrote that they had to make up their beds and fold up their nightgowns each morning, and that they had bread and butter for both breakfast and supper. Their letters also reveal that the Burwells house was being enlarged while they were living in it and that 8 students slept in one room. In one portion of a letter, Mary Murphy exhibits the homesickness that may have plagued many Burwell School students. She wrote that she “had never missed home so bad in her life” and sometimes cried “like my heart would break.” She disliked life at the Burwell School so much that she threatened to take the stage coach or walk home if her father did not send for her.

**After the Burwell School:** Mary Murphy married Dr. Joseph Dickson Pearsall of Sampson County who served as a surgeon in the Confederate Army. Susan Murphy married Dr. Erasmus Hervey Evans of Cumberland County. Each twin had four children.

### **Jane Williamette Bell**

**Born:** 1841

**Home:** Plymouth, NC

**At the Burwell School:**

According to an oral history interview given by her granddaughter, Jane Bell was sent to the Burwell School because “her father believed that females and brains were not biologically incompatible and he recognized in Jane a rare intelligence.” Sixteen-

year old Jane was accompanied to the Burwell School by her eleven-year old sister Emily Rowena.

**After the Burwell School:** Jane later attended Salem Academy in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. In 1861, she married Dr. William F. Hunter of Halifax County, NC as his second wife. When her husband left to join the Medical Corps of the Confederate Army, she took on the job of running the large plantation owned by her husband. She continued running the plantation after her husband’s return from the Civil War because he was in failing health and despondent over the loss of his two sons (from his first marriage) in the war. She had nine children, six of whom survived infancy. Jane Bell died in 1911 at the age of 70.

