

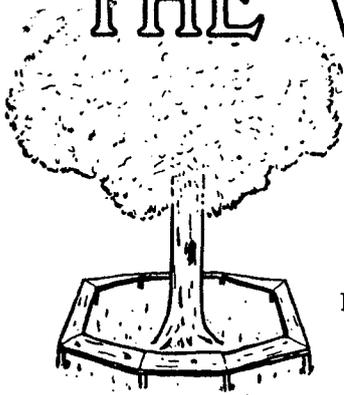
THE WHITTLERS BENCH

Susie

SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

501 N. Atlantic Ave. - SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA 28461

March 13, 1990



MEETING: The Historical Society's meeting will be held March 22, 1990, 6:30 PM at the CP & L Visitor's Center. This will be a covered dish meeting. Please bring your favorite recipe.

Speaker for the meeting will be Mrs. Pam Cumbee, who is on the Board of Directors of the Southport Maritime Museum, Inc.

OLD LOG SCHOOL: The Southport Historical Society is pleased to announce the acquisition of a historically important building which was used as a school, and built between 1810-1840.

The structure is approximately 18' x 24', 2 story, 4 rooms and entrance. It is constructed of roughly cut logs, partially covered by cedar shingles, with a tin roof.

At present, the Society is looking at several sites upon which to locate the building; then will come the challenging work of restoration.

We hope, very much, to have representatives of the State Archives Department helping us in this restoration.

GENEALOGY PAGE: Due to the illness of Abbie Bitney, we will not have the Genealogy Page in this issue. Abbie, we hope you will soon be back in the mainstream of physical activity. We are praying for you.

FLORA GREENSLEEVES: Flora is having a very busy time at this printing. she's sorry the Garden Page, is missing, but she hopes to start including it again in the near future. DON'T WORK TOO HARD, FLORA.

WOOD CHIPS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: Executive Board meetings are open and Society members are welcome to attend. Our next meeting will be very short following the "Pot Luck" on March 22, and the next scheduled board meeting will be at 3:00 PM on Saturday, May 19, 1990 at the Old Jail. All committee chairpersons are encouraged to make presentations, proposals, requests and reports.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

THURSDAY, March 22, 1990	---	Pot Luck Dinner
SATURDAY, May 19, 1990	---	Genealogical Picnic
SATURDAY, June 30, 1990	---	Support our annual fund raiser and Antique Show
SUNDAY, July 1, 1990	---	
WEDNESDAY, July 4, 1990	---	Greet Public at the Jail
THURSDAY, September 27, 1990	---	Watch for the late summer issue of the Whittler's Bench
SATURDAY, October 27 or WEDNESDAY, October 31, 1990	---	Young people's tour of the haunted Jail
THURSDAY, November 15, 1990	---	Special program (to be announced)
THURSDAY, January 24, 1990	---	Annual Meeting Detailed Committee Reports

OPENING THE JAIL FOR TOURS:

SATURDAY, May 19, 1990	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Especially for our New Hanover County Guests
MONDAY, May 28, 1990	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Memorial Day
SATURDAY, June 30, 1990	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Concurrent with the Antique Show
SUNDAY, July 1, 1990	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	
MONDAY, July 2, 1990	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	
WEDNESDAY, July 4, 1990	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Independence Day
SUNDAYS, July 8 thru SEPTEMBER 2, 1990	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	
SEPTEMBER 3, 1990	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Labor Day

It is suggested that we open the Old Jail on Sunday afternoons through the Summer:

- To arouse interest in the past
- To encourage and greet visitors
- To provide a stop for tourists, and
- To promote Southport and our HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

If each of us will spend two or four hours at the Jail this summer, our organization will be successful in meeting part of our Charter objectives and will provide a needed public service.

CHAIN GANG

As it is in any society, one member is always seeking the help of another member. We are no exception.

Return questionnaires don't work and sign-up sheets have limited results; ergo, committee chairpersons may be forced to annoy "you all" with the telephone.

With a little luck it is possible you could be called to serve on each committee. However, if you have a special interest in Southport's history or your Society's efforts, please contact several of the following persons:

<u>1990 COMMITTEES</u>	<u>POINTS OF CONTACT</u>
MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC RELATIONS	Susie Carson* 457-6940
ADMINISTRATIVE	Donna Michaux* 278-5611
PROGRAM	Pauline Swain* 457-6537
FINANCIAL	Thomas Savidge* 457-4368
SOCIAL	Sue Kuafam 457-9639 Jackie Savidge 457-4368
PUBLICATION AND PUBLICITY	Ann Tucker* 457-9270
CEMETARY	Dot Schmidt 457-6195
GENEALOGY	Abbie Bitney 457-9466 Susie Carson 457-6940
MARITIME MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL BUILDING MARDERS	Mary Ann Russ 457-6398
OLD JAIL	Eleanor Smith 457-6921 457-6118
HERITAGE GARDEN	Jan Quinn 457-5121
FUND RAISING/ANTIQUÉ SHOW	Jack Fairley* 457-5512 Cheryl Daniels 457-6053
BI-CENTENNIAL 1992	Paul Sweeney 457-4561
OLD LOG SCHOOL RELOCATION	Bubba Smith* 457-6130 457-4490
DO NOTHING	Don Johnson* 457-4712

*Members, Executive Board

Recently in doing some filing, I found a list, from the 1880 Federal Census, showing who was living at Fort Johnston. I thought you would find this of interest. The list is shown below:

W. P. Graves	age 39	married	Commanding Officer	Born Wash.D.C.
H. S. Graves	34	married	wife	Va.
Emily Graves	4		child	Md.
H. Z. Graves	2		child	D. C.
A. A. Graves	11/12		child	N. C.
Lotus Miles	27	single	Comm. Officer USA	Ill.
A. D. Schinck	36	married	" " "	Ohio
M. B. Schinck	31	married	wife	Md.
M. T. Schinck	9		child	Md.
Wm. T. Schinck	7		child	Iowa
S. T. Schinck	1		child	N. C.
John Davis	31	single	soldier USA	Md.
John de Wagner	55	single	soldier USA	France
John Muller	49	single	soldier USA	Germany
James Harris	37	married	soldier USA	England
James J. Oskren	33	single	soldier USA	Ohio
Wm. F. Marshall	24	single	soldier USA	Mass.
Adalbert Hirto	31	single	soldier USA	Germany
John O'Halloran	34	single	soldier USA	N. Y.
James Shillinglora	32	single	soldier USA	Scotland
James Boyd	22	single	soldier USA	Pa.
Theodore Bartell	50	single	soldier USA	Germany
John F. Corbett	31	single	soldier USA	Vermont
Jeremiah Crowley	39	single	soldier USA	Mass.
Garrett Dalton	28	single	soldier USA	Ireland
John Downey	28	single	soldier USA	Mass.
John B. Hackepill	27	married	soldier USA	Pa.
Henrey Hammond	24	single	soldier USA	Germany
Robert H. Jackson	29	single	soldier USA	Ala.
John Long	28	single	soldier USA	Germany
John McCue	23	single	soldier USA	Mass.
Fred H. Merrill	27	single	soldier USA	Maine
Justus Mollenhauor	33	single	soldier USA	Germany
William Moore	38	single	soldier USA	Ireland
James Roland	31	single	soldier USA	Ireland
Job M. Schaw	42	single	soldier USA	N. Y.
John K. Shanley	30	married	soldier USA	N. Y.
Meloin K. Shields	30	single	soldier USA	Md.
George Wooster	30	single	soldier USA	Conn.
John R. Young	32	single	soldier USA	Pa.
John V. Soyton	36	single	soldier USA	Scotland
John O'Connor	45	married	soldier USA	N. Brunswick
Annie O'Connor	35	married	wife	Germany
Johnny O'Connor	5		child	Md.
Charles O'Connor	4		child	Md.
Anny O'Connor	2		child	N. C.
William O'Connor	1		child	N. C.

Edward Whiting	32	married	comm. sergt.USA	Mass.
E. Whiting	31	married	wife	N. Y.
Eddy Whiting	8		child	Texas
Charles Whiting	3		child	Texas
Frank M. White	20	single	brother jeweler	Mass.
Mary E. White	18	single	sister jeweler	Mass.
Patrick Spillman	46	married	soldier USA	Ireland
Margaret Spillman	28	married	wife	Ireland
George Benson	33	married	soldier USA	Md.
J. Benson	35	married	wife	Md.
Fanny Benson	15	single	child	Md.
R.E. Eskildson	35	married	hospital steward	N. Y.
Mary Eskildson	30	married	wife	N. C.
J. B. Eskildson	6		child	S. C.
Henry Eskildson	4		child	N. C.
John Eskildson	1-1/2		child	N. C.
Hugh McDermot	45	married	sargt. at Fort Caswell	N. C.
Lizzie McDermot	40	married	wife - keep house	N. C.
Julia McDermot	18	single	keep house	N. C.

(THIS LIST WAS COPIED FROM MICROFILM BY MRS. DORIS L. THOMPSON)

A. D. Schinck, the seventh name shown above, as "comm. Officer", wrote a paper entitled "A Description of Fort Johnston, N. C." The original is now in an Archives in New York State and there is a copy of it in our N. C. Archives and History. However, when I asked for a copy of the copy I was quoted a price of \$35.00! This was a bit steep for me so I did not order it. Before paying so much for a copy I would like to see it and decide if it is worth it!

As I look at the list above it raises many questions in my mind - such as housing on the reservation for families; why was a brother and sister there as jewelers; why were so many foreign-born persons in the U. S. Army at that time. All of this would be so interesting to know.

Also, I would like to know when the fort ceased to be used. By 1898 the buildings and fences had fallen into such a state of disrepair that the townspeople were complaining about the looks of the place and petitioning the County Commissioners to insist that the Army remove same. About the same time, some of the structures were moved to other parts of town and became dwelling houses, or parts of such. The hospital was moved to Lot 27 on Bay Street and became a residence. It is now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Sidney Fortney.

I am sure you have thought of other intriguing questions from the list. It is certainly a pity that the 1890 Federal census was destroyed, except for a few scattered counties. Many of our questions could have been answered by that, I think. The Southport Historical Society has a project going called "Project 1890" which is an attempt to read the newspapers of the day and record pertinent and interesting information on the citizens living here at the time. Perhaps you would be able to volunteer some time to devote to the project. Call me or Abbie Bitney.