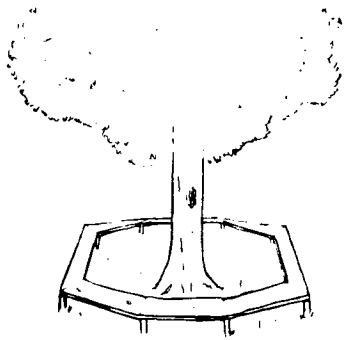


April 1986

# THE WHITTLERS BENCH



SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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SPRING MEETING: This is to be a covered dish dinner and will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Trinity Methodist Church at the corner of Nash and Atlantic on Thursday, April 24, at 6:30 P.M. The dinner will be followed by a program featuring Jess Parker, Brunswick County Veterans Service Officer. Mr. Parker is at present engaged in the writing of a book about Brunswick County service men, in all wars, Revolution to the present, who have died while in service. Mr. Parker is an excellent speaker and a subject of interest to us all. Other special guests will be Joe Medlin, Albert (Tebo) Rogers and Nelson Smith, who have led the way in the beginning of what we hope will be a restoration and preservation project for the old cemeteries within the town. COME - bring some food and bring a guest (one who is a prospect for Society membership, if possible!)

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MUSEUM OF THE CAPE FEAR: Many people are unaware that the N. C. Museum of History at Raleigh has three regional branches; one in Elizabeth City; another at Old Fort in the western part of the state; and the latest, the Museum of the Cape Fear at Fayetteville. Renovation of a county-owned building, built as a part of the Highsmith-Raney Hospital & School of Nursing, is underway and the branch museum is expected to open this summer.

The Museum of the Cape Fear will act as a teaching source for the 20-county southeastern section of the state and also will work with non-state museums and historical societies in obtaining grants and preserving artifacts; its second function will be to collect and interpret the history of the region. The museum will certainly contain much concerning the Scotch Highlanders who, between 1730 and the Revolution, took advantage of land inducements to settle the region, most of them coming through Brunswick Town and Wilmington enroute to the Fayetteville area. Curator Rodney Barfield is gathering artifacts to help tell the story in authentic exhibits of our historically rich area.

"ROANOAK" - This PBS American Playhouse mini-series presentation on the Roanoke Voyages, 1584-1590, is scheduled to be shown nationally on public television on three successive Monday evenings beginning May 26. More details will be available in local papers as the show dates approach. Originally, part of the production of the series was scheduled for Bald Head Island, but has now been switched to a location in South Carolina.

SPECIAL CEREMONY PLANNED: - June 10, 1986, will bring a special ceremony commemorating the arrival on that date 400 years ago of the English explorer, Sir Francis Drake, on the shores of North Carolina. Plans include a re-enactment of the lighting of the signal fires by Englishmen who were on shore to let Drake know of their presence. This and many other events will take place along the National Seashore near Hatteras. It is planned and hoped that the ELIZABETH II sailing vessel will be present and participate. The event will be open to the public.

IT IS TIME TO renew your membership in the Southport Historical Society if you have not done so for 1986, our Anniversary Year! To do this, mail your check for \$10.00 made payable to the Southport Historical Society to Post Office Box 10130, Southport.

Excerpts taken from the minutes of a special meeting of the Southport Board of Aldermen:

"A special meeting of the Board was held March 30th 1899 for the purpose of considering the purchase of a Cemetary (sic) site and other important business.

Present - E. F. Gordon, Mayor  
Richard Doshier  
J. W. Mintz  
O. D. Burriss  
J. A. Williams  
M. Guthrie

"The Board considered the matter of the purchase of a Cemetary (sic) Site, and after some discussion it was dicided (sic) that on account of the condition of the Treasury, there being but little money, that they would defer the matter, and recommend the matter for the consideration of the incoming administration.

"Ordered that State Sect. C. Y. Thompson be paid \$3.80 for certified copy of City Charter Amendment.

"Ordered that John Cooker be paid \$1.25 for marking and placing four Lamp Posts.

"Ordered that Amos Leonard be paid 25¢ for removing nuisance.

(Lamps?)

"Ordered that John Cooker be paid \$4.50 Lighting Street Maps to 13th of March.

"Ordered that O. S. Bell be paid \$19.50 for 600 Bu. Shells.

"Ordered that Mrs. Amelia A. Guthrie be granted an allowance of \$10.00 out of Pilot Fund.

"Ordered that the Mayor be instructed to purchase 25 Galv Tin Buckets, that they be kept at Truck House.

"On Motion it was ordered that it shall be the duty of the City Marshal when a fire occurs within the Town, to have the Fire Truck and Buckets taken as soon as possible to the scene of the fire, and that he shall take them back to the Truck House as soon as the fire is over, and that all Ladders and Buckets be kept at Truck House at all times when not in use for city purposes.

"Ordered that it shall be unlawful for any person or persons, firm or corporations, to keep more than 2 blls of Kerosene on their premises: this to apply to all parts of the City north of the south side of Bay Street. For violation of this ordinance party or parties to be fined \$10.00 and costs. Failure to pay fine and costs subject to imprissohment (sic). This ordinance to go into effect 10th day of April 1899.

"No other business. Board adjourned.

M. C. Guthrie, City Clerk

NOTE: Still earlier than the above, a company called "The Evergreen Cemetery Company" was formed to begin another cemetery. We assume this was because the Old Smithville Burying Ground was about full. This venture failed, and it was not until 1937 that a new cemetery was opened (Northwood I).