



THE WHITTLERS BENCH

P.O. Box 115
Southport, N.C. 28461

Vol. 2, No. 1

S O U T H P O R T H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y N E W S L E T T E R

J a n u a r y 24, 1977

MEETING THIS THURSDAY

On Thursday, January 27, the Southport Historical Society will begin the new year with a covered-dish supper and a special program. We will meet at 7:00 P.M. in the Catholic Rectory, located at the corner of West and Caswell Streets.

Bring your favorite covered dish. If you have any questions, call Mrs. Eleanor Smith at 457 - 6921. For those who don't want to cook Mrs. Smith will be glad to suggest some other items that you may bring instead.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Mrs. Mary Gornto, former director of the Brunswick County Bicentennial Committee, who will discuss methods of collecting oral history.

You will also meet our newly elected officers and hear about some of the programs and activities being planned for 1977.

A delicious dinner, good company, an interesting program and some surprises -- that's our January meeting! Please plan to attend on Thursday night.

A REMINDER

It's time to renew your membership. Please fill out the attached application and mail it to the address shown or bring it to the meeting on Thursday night. The Historical Society needs you.

SOCIETY ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At the November meeting of the Southport Historical Society the following officers were elected to serve during 1977:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| President | Mrs. Susie Carson |
| Vice-President | William R. Thorsen |
| Secretary-Treasurer | Mrs. Pauline Swain |
| Board of Directors | Mrs. Eleanor Smith |
| | Mark Connaughton |
| | Afton Smith |

* * * * *

DO YOU KNOW?

Where was Potts Street?

For whom was it named?
(answers on p. 2)

SPOTLIGHT ON HISTORY

One source of information about early Smithville (Southport) residents is the records of St. James Episcopal Church in Wilmington. St. James was the sister church of St. Philips at Brunswick Town, while the present St. Philips in Southport was established in 1843.

The following excerpts are from St. James Church Historical Records, 1737 - 1852, compiled by Ida Brooks Kellam and Elizabeth F. McKoy.

Marriages:

Maj. Samuel Spott to Miss Harriet A.S. Clitherall -
Smithville, 14 Oct. 1828

John H. Holmes to Caroline A. Cochrane - Smithville,
21 Aug. 1838

Robert G. Rankin & Susan A. Brown - Smithville,
27 April 1842

Capt. George Taylor to Emeline Everett - Smithville
7 May 1844

Capt. Sewell L. Fremont, USA to Mary E. Langdon -
Smithville, April ____ 1848

Philip Prioleau to Caroline E. Brown - Smithville,
5 October 1848

Funerals:

1835 - July 24 - Lieut. Palmer - Smithville -
Intemperance

1836 - August 23 - George Platt, age 6 - Smithville -
nervous fever

1844 - November 14 - Ann Eliza Childs - at Ft. Johnston,
Smithville

1844 - December 17 - Mrs. Dr. Sutton - Smithville

SOUTHPORT NEWSPAPERS ON MICROFILM

The Southport-Brunswick County Library has announced that within the next two or three weeks a complete set of the State Port Pilot from 1950 to 1976 will be added to its microfilm collection. According to librarian Phil Barton, microfilm of earlier editions, from the first issue in 1936 through the year 1949, should be received in about three months.

Answers to "Do You Know?"

Atlantic Avenue was originally named Potts Street, in honor of Joshua Potts, one of the town's founders.