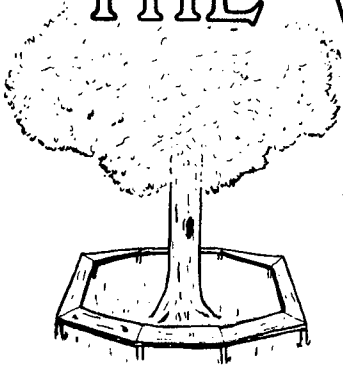


# THE WHITTLERS BENCH



## SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

501 N. ATLANTIC AVE • SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA 28461

JULY 19, 1986

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NO JULY MEETING THIS YEAR: At the July 15th meeting of the Board of Directors, it was decided that with all the activity associated with Southport's Fourth of July celebration and with the extended heat wave which we are experiencing, we will dispense with the regular quarterly meeting which was scheduled for July 24. The October meeting is expected to be held on the date scheduled (October 22nd). At that time we will vote whether or not to change our constitution as to July meetings of the Society. Think about it; be ready to state your opinion - and vote.

OLD JAIL POPULAR OVER FOURTH: The Old Brunswick County Jail, built in 1904, on land sold to the County by Miss Kate Stuart, known as "The Heroine of Smithville", was open to the public on July 4th and 5th and again attracted a large number of local and out-of-town visitors. The old and primitive cells on the second floor, the collection of shells and equipment loaned to us by John A. Potter, and the old farming equipment on loan by James W. Smith and Mrs. Ann M. Price, proved to be the prime attractions. The fact that some of the scenes for the recently made movie, "Crimes of the Heart", were shot in the Old Jail, was impressive to some of our visitors.

HEIRLOOM GARDEN PROJECT: The Directors approved a project to create an Old Smithville, or Heirloom, Garden, using the grounds of the Old Jail for the plantings. Ms. Barbara Rhodes, whose idea this was, has agreed to chair a committee to put this into practice. The committee will welcome ideas, suggestions - and physical help - from the members of the Society. This is to be a continuing project and can easily become one of our most outstanding accomplishments.

LOST PICTURES AND NEGATIVES: Your help is solicited in another area, also. None of the pictures which were collected by the Society over a period of years, nor the negatives, can be located. This collection represents much work and it is tragic that they cannot now be located. IF ANYONE HAS ANY IDEA ABOUT WHERE THESE ARE, please either bring the pictures and negatives to the Curiosity Shop or to the home of Susie Carson. No one will be blamed - it is quite easy to stash items away and forget them - and all of us will be very grateful.

REPRINT OF SOUTHPORT ARCHITECTURE BOOK: Plans are now underway to reprint THE ARCHITECTURE OF SOUTHPORT. The first printing of this was sold out months ago and the demand for a reprint has been great. We will have to seek financial backing for this project because printers must be paid before the work can be released.

THE CEMETERIES OF SOUTHPORT AND SURROUNDING AREA is still available from the Society. Copies are \$8.00 if purchased locally or \$8.75 if purchased by mail. If you know people who are interested in genealogy and whose ancestors came from Southport, please pass this information on to them.

HISTORIC HALIFAX WELL WORTH VISITING: The old village is a short distance off Interstate 95 near Roanoke Rapids. It is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 to 5:00 and on Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00. The basic tour, offered five times a day, now lasts approximately 45-55 minutes and allows the visitor to view the middle of the old town. Government buildings, including the 1833 Clerk of Court's office and the 1838 jail, sit on the old Town Commons near the Colonial Courthouse site where both the 4th and 5th Provincial Congresses met. The Halifax Resolves and the State's first Constitution were adopted here. Other features of this town include The Burgess House, the cemetery, Market Square, and the Joseph Montford Archaeological Structure. Visitors begin their tour at the Visitors' Center; the 1760 Owens House, furnished with Southern pieces prior to 1780, is interpreted each hour on the half hour. The third tour now offered is the popular 1808 Sally-Billy Plantation House. There are no charges for any of the tours.

HISTORIC TOURS, ANYONE? Would any of you be interested in having the Society sponsor a tour of nearby historic sites, a tour that would cover no more than a day's time? It could probably be arranged. There are many, many sites near us that could be included. If you or anyone you know is interested, call the president at 457-6940. This would not be restricted to Society members only, but we need to know an approximate number who might be interested before we can even discuss costs.

NEW ADDRESS: Correspondence, checks for dues, bills etc. are now to be directed to 501 North Atlantic Avenue, Southport, N. C. 28461. Mrs. Carson is at home most of the time and will be responsible for getting all mail to the proper parties. This change should speed the delivery of mail to the appropriate person and allow the president to be fully aware of what is being done and should be done. Your cooperation will be appreciated as we have had quite a bit of trouble with the mail lately.

NEWS ABOUT DUES: In reviewing our mailing list recently, it was discovered that only about of those who will receive this issue of WHITTLERS BENCH have paid their 1986 dues. If you have meant to mail your dues but haven't, won't you please send your \$10.00 now? Our mailing list must be revised shortly to conform with the membership list.

ROBERT RUARK PLAQUE: The City of Southport is in the process of erecting a monument in front of the Robert Ruark house on the corner of Nash and Lord Streets in Southport. The plaque is to read: "Robert C. Ruark, 1915-1965, Columnist and Author. 'The Old Man and the Boy' were youthful remembrances of his maternal grandfather, Captain Edward Adkins, in his house". Be sure to go by and see the monument. A great many people are still interested in Robert Ruark and his writings now more than twenty years after his untimely death. His books are available at the Southport Public Library.

"WHO'S BEHIND YOU" -- A GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Brunswick County Library  
and

Southport Historical Society

A workshop on Basic Genealogical Research Techniques will be held at the Brunswick County Library, <sup>W. Moore</sup> ~~Monroe~~ Street, Southport Wednesday, August 20, 2 P.M. The workshop is co-sponsored by the Southport Historical Society, and information on membership in the Society will be available.

The workshop will be conducted by Mrs. Abbie Bitney, C. G. R. S.. Mrs. Bitney is a new resident of Southport, but a long time member of the Southport Historical Society. She is certified by the National Board for Certification of Genealogists as a Records Searcher. Mrs. Bitney has over 20 years experience as a genealogist with ten of those years as a professional researcher. She studied genealogy at Washington State University in the Holland Library in Pullman, Wash., the Institute of Historical and Genealogical Research at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and the Institute of Genealogy at the National Archives in Washington, D. C. Mrs. Bitney has research experience in several states and in many genealogical libraries and archives, as well as genealogical teaching experience.

The "Who's Behind You" Genealogy Workshop at the Brunswick Library will be structured especially for beginners, however, time will be reserved at the end of the session for specific questions and discussion of possible solutions for persons who have started their quest for family history. If you think you will enjoy exercising your mind with history and mystery and sharpening your detection and deduction skills then genealogy is a good hobby for you. Everyone has ancestors, and anyone can identify and get information on his own. Come to the workshop and find out how to start: where to look and what to do next.