

THE WHITTLERS BENCH

Southport Historical Society

501 North Atlantic Avenue
Southport, North Carolina 28461

Volume XXII, Number 2, March 1998

REGULAR MEETING: We are having a Potluck Dinner on Thursday, March 26, 1998 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church at the intersection of Highways 133 and 211. Bring a favorite dish, all the family, and your guests and friends. The speaker is the eminent historian, author, and learned professor Susan S. Carson. I know you are not going to believe this, but this is Miss Susie's FIRST ever program for the Southport Historical Society, a truly Historic Occasion! Her announced subject is Southport during the World War I era, but we won't limit her to that. Come early and get a good seat! We also will be presenting a gift to the Church's Montessori School which we disrupt when we meet there.

FORMAT: Doesn't this look old-fashioned? I guess that may be appropriate for a historical newsletter, but we certainly were spoiled by the elegant computer-driven publications from Cheryl Daniel and Francey Wertz over the past several months. The Society has a great need for a desk-top publisher to continue that good work.

IN MEMORIAM: We have lost two long-time members recently--Mr. Robert E. Shannon, who died on February 23, 1998, and Mrs. Roberta Porter Hon on March 5, 1998. Their families are in our thoughts and prayers.

NEW MEMBERS: Please welcome the following new (and returned) members: Mrs. Bettie M. Burke of San Antonio, TX; Mrs. Sandra B. Connelly of Long Beach; Mrs. Susan S. Fisher of Jacksonville, FL; Dr. and Mrs. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr. of Wilmington; Mrs. Marjorie D. Jones, Mr. John Klutz, Dr. and Mrs. John S. Knowles, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Newman, all of Southport; Mr. and Mrs. James Whitfield Ruark of Wilmington; Mrs. Donald Sellers, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Wesson, all of Southport. (NOTE: Chris Fonvielle must have joined for the fellowship and the food--at the meeting he attended, he was the program!)

BENEFIT YARD SALE: Margaret Rudd & Associates, Inc., REALTORS, 1023 N. Howe Street, Southport, will sponsor a benefit yard sale in their office parking lot on Saturday, April 25, 1998. All proceeds will be donated to the Southport Historical Society for use in the restoration of the "Old Jail." Now is a good time to spring clean the attic, garage, and shed and donate all of your unused and unwanted items to the sale which will benefit the Society and its projects. Donations will be accepted at the Southport office beginning April 1, 1998. For pick-up of larger items, please call 457-5258.

SOUTHPORT VISITOR CENTER: The Society is going to help SOUTHPORT 2000 to open the Visitor Center on Sunday afternoons after the Ft. Fisher ferry goes over to summer hours at the end of March. We will be recruiting volunteers for a short afternoon shift; the plan will be to have enough people to prevent this being a problem for any individual--hopefully only one day a month per person. If you haven't been in the new Center, go by and see the exhibits. One wall contains a Time Line of Southport history, and the other has our Bicentennial Quilt, a case of artifacts, and an excellent display of photographs from the February 7, 1998 ceremony in John Smith Cemetery, courtesy of the Sunny Point photographer.

JOHN SMITH CEMETERY DEDICATION CEREMONY: The following are the remarks by Dorothy Blount Smith Wall, the senior member (80+ years!) of the two families honored at the dedication ceremony on February 7, 1998.

My heart is so full, I don't know what to say. I want to thank all of you who have come out today to pay tribute to my grandfather Pvt. Abram Blount of the 37th USCT Co. C and Pvt. Abram Galloway of the 37th USCT Co. I.

The research and documentation done by Frank and Matt Miller, Charles Nicholson, Jim McKee and others has made this day a historical and memorable occasion.

My grandfather married my grandmother Phyllis Ann Frink many many years ago. Had five children who lived. One of them Maude Blount Smith was my mother. A son Thomas A. Blount was the father of my cousin E. Anne Blount Williams. Now living in St. Petersburg, Fla.

I was born here in Southport, N.C. My grandmother reared me on the pension Grandpa, Pvt. Abram Blount received from serving in the Civil War.

It was also on his pension that I was able to attend a 4 year college, Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C. I taught school a few years in Cherryville, N.C. Then decided to extend my education further by attending Columbia University in New York City where I received my Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education. I was also proud that at that time Secretary of State John Foster Dulles received an Honorary Degree with my Class of 1954.

I taught school in the New York City School System for thirty-eight years and retired in 1985.

I have done extensive traveling to Israel--Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth; Hawaii--Pearl Harbor, Waikiki Beach, Honolulu; North Africa--Morocco, Casablanca; Barcelona, Spain; Rome, Italy. Saw the Vatican at St. Peter Square.

Attended a dinner at the White House when George Bush was President. Have continued to attend other affairs since when Bob Dole was campaigning. I've been quite active in my young and reclining years and all of my achievement I owe to my darling Grandpa Pvt. Abram Blount 37 Regiment USCT, Co. C.

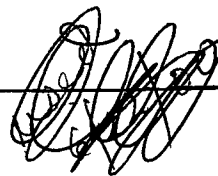
I want to thank the community for having grown up here, for having a closeness that will never be severed.

Today I pay honor to Pvt. Abram Galloway and to Pvt. Abram Blount, my Grandfather, my General.

Donna K. K. K.

"Looking Back" — The History Page

Susan Carson, Editor



Submitted by Lawrence Willing, Sr., Southport

FISHING TRIP ---- SUMMER 1932

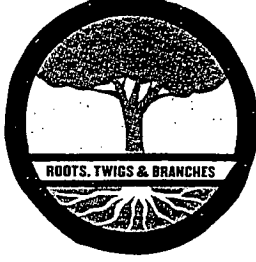
Bragging rights for being the best fisherman has always been contested by men around small coastal towns like Southport. And that's what led to this fishing trip of Captain Bonner Bussells' at a well-known fishing spot near Southport called "muddy slew." Who's the best fisherman aboard was the only topic of conversation on the way to the spot.

Being only about twelve, I hadn't had time to earn much of a reputation as a fisherman, other than being a fair sheepsheader. So being in this four-man skiff with three grown, bona fide fishermen made me feel like I was along mainly as a fill-in. Also aboard was noted sheepshead specialist George Wortham, and as best I can remember, the other fisherman was Captain Bill Styron.

I was so slim back then until my pants didn't have room for but one back pocket. So that's probably why Captain Bonner positioned me in the bow of the boat. And I think that because I was in the bow of this anchored boat, laying head-to the tide, the fish got a look at my bait first. Anyway, for some reason other than me being the best fisherman aboard, I caught all four of the fish that were caught. The fish were a flounder, sheepshead, red drum, and a speckled trout--all good size fish. If I was just making this story up, I definitely wouldn't have a sheepshead on that list of fish because Mr. George wouldn't just turn over in his grave, he'd come out of it after me.

In recalling this fishing trip, I think about what a fine person Captain Bonner Bussells was. If he ever had a worry, or an enemy, he sure had me fooled. And I don't believe he ever missed a chance to give a needed helping hand. I remember when he helped my father as they met our train in Wilmington that rainy middle-of-the-night in 1927 when we were moving here from Maryland. I was only seven, but I can remember the deep green color of his car as if it was right before me now. I can't be sure who that fourth fisherman was, but somehow the passing of time hasn't dimmed memories like that one.

And this story makes me think about Mr. George Wortham, a well-respected local black gentleman, being on that trip with us. I'll bet our young people here today don't have any idea how close our race relations were back then--not that they have become bad since then. With the advent of TV and street drugs, our way of life has changed so much until all people in general are nowhere near as close now as they were back when times were harder, but somehow, life was better. The passing of time hasn't dimmed a lot of those memories either.



ROOTS, TWIGS AND BRANCHES
THE GENEALOGY PAGE
BY: SUSIE HOLTZ

COMPUTER TALK:

For N.C. residence only, you can now E-Mail request to the Archives. Reply will be by mail. archives@ncsl.dcr.state.nc.us. A good index site to check is www.cyndislist.com/nc.htm.

MAIL BAG:

Need information on a surname? Send requests to me and I'll be happy to help. Need a copy of a deed? Will look up, but for Brunswick only. 492 S. Shore Dr. Southport, N.C. 28461.

SURNAMES:

For you BELL researchers. On Samuel BELL marriage license shows wife to be Frances O PIGOTT, dated 28 March 1855. Someone had penciled in Mrs. next to her name. In checking, she was the widow of R.W. Pigott. She was the daughter of William and Annie (Reaves) FRINK. Samuel was the son of James and Charlotte (Fulwood) BELL.

QUERIES:

Looking for a book on the STALLINGS family. Does your local genealogy library have this book? Stallings Family History by Dr. James Stallings. Another book on the Stallings by Jo Stallings Short. Please contact Susie Carson.

What's in a name?

Below fill in the blanks with names from the past.

Not a seamstress, but a _____

Not a buyer, but a _____

Not a horn, but a _____

Not a cook, but a _____

Not a waterfall, but a _____

Not a duck, but a _____

Not old, but _____

Not a mountain, but a _____

Not hawks, but _____

Not wet, but _____

Not pork, but _____

Not east, but _____

Not a runner, but a _____

Not less, but _____

Not a bluegill, but a _____

Not a trunk, but a _____

Not a steward, but a _____

Not a Jones, but a _____

Not a cape, but a _____

Not a slug, but a _____

Not short, but _____

Not a cyst, but a _____

Not a Queen, but a _____

Not a waiter, but a _____

Not pumpkin, but _____

Not days, but _____

Not a rock, but a _____

Not oceanside, but _____

answers- from left to right. Taylor, Trout, Seller, Root, Bell, Porter, Baker, Smith, Fountain, Hood, Swan, Snell, Young, Long, Hill, Toomer, Eagle, King, Dry, Cook, Lamb, Mintz, West, Weeks, Walker, Stone, Moore, Woodside.

The Book Page

Southport Historical Society is actively engaged in publishing books dealing with the history of the lower Cape Fear. Works listed below are available for sale by the Society, and at book stores in the area.

Architecture of Southport, by Carl Lounsbury. Southport Historical Society, second printing 1966, 62 pp., soft-cover. \$15.00. The styles of old Southport homes are described and illustrated.

Cap'n Charlie and the Lights of the Lower Cape Fear, by Ethel Herring. Southport Historical Society, fourth printing 1995, 120 pp, ill., soft-cover. \$10.00.

The Cemeteries of Southport, compiled by Dorcas W. Schmidt. Southport Historical Society, 1983, 94 pp., soft-cover. \$8.00. A unique reference book listing names of those buried in the cemeteries of Southport and environs.

Fort Caswell in War and Peace, by Ethel Herring and Carolee Williams. Published by Broadfoot's Bookmark, Wendell, North Carolina, 1983. 138 pp., ill., hard-cover. \$10.00.

A History of Fort Johnston, by Wilson Angley. Includes index. Published by Southport Historical Society, in association with the Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1996, 150 pp., ill., soft-cover. \$10.00.

Joshua's Dream, a history of old Southport by Susan S. Carson. First printing published by Carolina Power & Light Company in 1992, second printing published by Southport Historical Society, 1994. 168 pp., ill., soft-cover. \$15.00.

Southport (Smithville), A Chronology, Volume I, 1520-1887, by Bill Reaves. Published by Broadfoot Publishing Company: Wilmington, North Carolina, 1978. Second edition 1985, 129 pp., ill., soft-cover. \$15.00.

Southport (Smithville), A Chronology, Volume II, 1887-1920, by Bill Reaves. Published by Southport Historical Society, Southport, North Carolina, 1978. Second edition 1990, 324 pp., ill., soft-cover. \$20.00.

Southport-Brunswick County, North Carolina, Volume III, 1920-1940, A Chronology by Bill Reaves. Published by Southport Historical Society, Southport, North Carolina, 1996, 248 pp., 46-page index, ill., soft-cover. First edition. \$12.00.

Note: Membership entitles you to purchase these books from the Society at a 10% discount.

