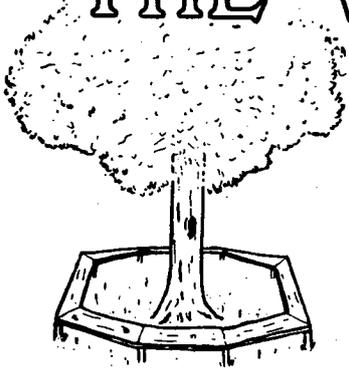


# THE WHITTLERS BENCH



## SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

501 N. Atlantic • SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA 28461  
Avenue

JANUARY 1987

JANUARY MEETING: Our Society will hold its first meeting of 1987 on Friday, January 30, at the Public Library on West Moore Street. The meeting, primarily a business one, will begin at 7:30 P.M. and will include a review of our 1986 projects, and project plans for 1987. Please be sure to attend. Also, remember that it is time to pay dues for 1987.

NEW PRINTING OF "THE ARCHITECTURE OF SOUTHPORT": Thanks to the efforts of Mary Anne Russ, our Publications Chairman, the Southport Historical Society received a one-year, interest-free, loan from the Federation of N. C. Historical Societies which has permitted the reprinting of the previously sold out book, The Architecture of Southport, by Carl Lounsbury. The book is now available through Susan Carson, Pauline Swain and Eleanor Smith at the Curiosity Shop. The price is \$8.00 if picked up from one of these locations, or \$9.00 if the book must be mailed.

NEW COMMITTEES: President Carson appointed the following committees to serve for 1987:

Cemetery: Abbie Bitney, Chrm.; Dot Schmidt, Mary Gore, and Carl Swain

Old Jail: Eleanor Smith, Chrm.; Paul Sweeney, Jean Prevost, and James (Bubba) Smith

Publications and Publicity: Mary Anne Russ, Chrm., Jan Quinn, Jack Fairley

Constitution: Jim Rabon, Chrm., Pauline Swain and Abbie Bitney

Heirloom Garden: Barbara Rhodes, Chrm. Committee appointments incomplete. Will be announced at Society meeting.

NOTE: If you would like to serve on any of the above committees or would like to suggest a committee that might make the work of the Society better and more interesting, please feel free to call Susie Carson (or write at above address) at 457-6940 or the Secretary, Jan Quinn at P. O. Box 10177, Southport, 457-5121. Suggestions are always welcome and will be taken up at the next meeting of the Executive Board.

HIGH TIDE ENCORE: In the January 1982 issue of Whittlers' Bench, there was an item about the unusually high tide of November 11 and 12, 1981. But the January 1, 1987, tide made that one seem minor. This time the tide was due to the syzygy alignment of sun, moon, and earth which produced the highest Southport tide since Hurricane Hazel, according to local historians.

DUES NOTICE: In 1986 the Society voted to maintain annual dues at \$10.00 per member, but to establish a husband-wife membership for \$15.00 total. At the end of this newsletter you will find a form for sending in your dues. Dues should be mailed to Pauline Swain, P O.Box 10474, Southport, or to the Society at 501 N. Atlantic Ave., Southport. PLEASE DO THIS RIGHT AWAY. IT WILL BE SUCH A HELP.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

(With this issue, the Historical Tidbits Column, by Susie Carson, will begin a continued story! This is an item by Joshua Potts, entitled "The Location of Smithville", preserved for us in the Sprunt Monographs in the Southern Historical Collection, Chapel Hill, UNC. Each issue will carry a part of the article until it has been completed). The date of the monograph is not known.

THE LOCATION OF SMITHVILLE

By Joshua Potts

Matters, even of consequence, have sometimes originated more by chance than by design. A number of instances might be cited. It was the case relative to Smithville though a place not yet of great importance. The first movement happened as follows:

About the year 1786 Joshua Potts, the writer hereof, then living in Wilmington, was taken sick and by medical attendance had got better but, notwithstanding, still continued very weak and a loss of appetite etc. So it happened that his old friend, Capt. John Brown, who had been master of a packet that plied between Wilmington and Charleston, meeting me one day, asked me to take a sail with him in an open boat down the river, saying that the salt air might recruit me, etc.

Accordingly, debilitated as I was, I proceeded with him down the river Clarendon, or Cape Fear, in an open boat, being at the time only able to sit up. Capt. Brown had put on board some eatable refreshments, but I had no thought of partaking any. We had not proceeded further down than opposite the New Inlet when Capt. B asked me to eat something. I listened to what he said, and discovered an inclination to partake of such cold collation as he had set forth. My appetite returned and in a day or two I felt myself braced up by the effects of the salubrious breeze from the sea, although I was exposed in camping out, etc. for at that time there were only two or three pilots' houses on the bank. I returned to Wilmington in a few days perfectly recovered.

I was at that time single, but in a year or two more became a married man and in a summer season determined that my family should retire from Wilmington to Fort Johnston and there experience the cool and healthy sea breezes. Accordingly I carried my then small family down to the Fort, and rented the loft of a pilot house (Joe Swain's) where we were all stowed away, breathing health and rough pleasure.

While thus living a fisherman's life, I received a letter from John Huske, Esq., of Wilmington, then in low health, on the subject of having a town laid off on the level, near Fort Johnston. Mr. Huske wished to reside there for the sake of his health. This letter was dated Wilmington, October 18th, 1790, and it is herewith enclosed, No. 1. (This has not been found).

Mr. Huske would have called the proposed town Nashton had an act of the Assembly been passed - concerning which intelligence shall hereafter be given.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

CATEGORY: Individual, \$10.00	Business \$15.00
Husband-Wife, \$15.00	Sustaining \$25.00 (annually)
Student \$2.00	Life \$100.00