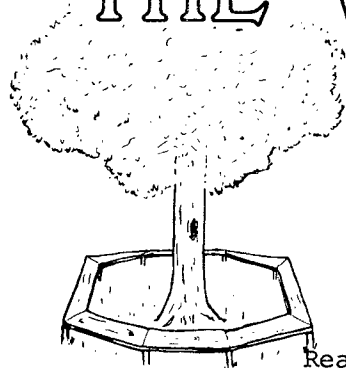


# THE WHITTLERS BENCH

SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P. O. BOX 10130, SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA 28461

APRIL 16, 1985



COVERED DISH SUPPER AT OLD JAIL! Have you ever eaten a meal in jail?

Now's your chance. Bill Reaves, Wilmington historian and lifetime member of our Historical Society, will address the Society following a covered dish supper which is to begin at 7:00 P. M. on Thursday, April 25th. Of course, Bill is well known to most of our members and always has interesting comments to make, so bring a favorite food and attend our Spring Meeting.

## HARBOR TRAIN TO RESUME TOUR SERVICE:

The battery-operated Harbor Train is offering tours through the Historic District of Southport on Fridays and Saturdays until the last week in May when it will begin operating each day, Tuesday through Saturday, through Labor Day. The driver/commentator will be Bill Hogan, a second-year history major at UNC-W. Ride cost remains the same-\$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children. The tours begin at Whittlers Bench. Even we "non-tourists" may learn something from a ride on the Harbor Train.

SEASON FOR HISTORIC HOME TOURS: Joining New Bern, Edenton, Wilmington and many other North Carolina towns and cities with April tours of old homes is Hillsborough with several 18th Century homes dating from 1750 and featuring a special display of archaeological findings from the 16th Century Indian village situated on the Eno River in what is now Hillsborough. Dates for the Historic Tour in Hillsborough are April 28-29th.

THE CEMETERIES OF SOUTHPORT AND SURROUNDING AREA, the latest publication of our Society, was reviewed quite favorably in the Winter Issue of the North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal, and has recently been mentioned

in the Federation Bulletin, publication of the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies, in Raleigh.

U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA: SYMBOL OF A VANISHED ERA, written by Joe A. Mobley, is also mentioned in the April issue of the Federation Bulletin. The book is available from the North Carolina Dept. of Cultural Resources. Perhaps some of you may be unaware that Southport Historical Society member, Dr. Richard Corbett, is the author of a booklet by the name of SHIPS BY THE NAME OF NORTH CAROLINA, copyrighted in 1961, which relates the history of all ships by that name from 1820 through the U.S.S. North Carolina, now in Wilmington. Dr. Corbett's book includes commercial and naval vessels and is very interesting.

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(A quotation from Southport (Smithville): A Chronology, by Bill Reaves) : "May 8, 1713-Landgrave Thomas Smith was granted 810 acres of dry land and marsh, 'commonly called Cape Island' (also known as Barren Island). Today this island is called Smith's Island, or more familiarly, 'Baldhead'. " This is but a very small sample of all the interesting things that Bill tells about in his Southport Chronology. We get almost daily requests to have the book reprinted.

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IF YOU FORGOT: Fill in the membership application below and transmit it with your 1985 dues of \$5.00 (the biggest bargain in town!)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_