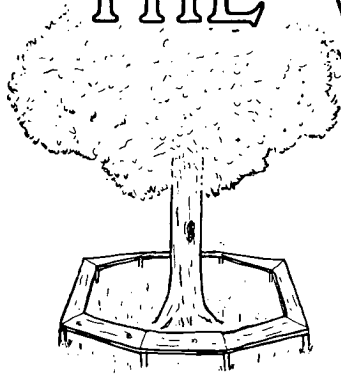


(Note: Although this issue was not dated, I had entered "October 1986" on the top of my personal copy. Because it was so poorly done-copy not very plain- I have re-typed it)

THE WHITTLERS BENCH

Susie C.



SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

501 N. Atlantic Ave • SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA 28461

VOLUME XL NUMBER 4

FALL MEETING: The Society's October meeting is scheduled for 6:30 P. M. at the Fellowship Hall of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Caswell Street on Thursday, October 23, 1986, and will feature a covered dish dinner. Our speaker will be Peter Sandbeck of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History who will discuss the possible restoration and preservation of our old cemeteries. Mr. Sandbeck has worked with several cities and his-

torical groups in the state on the restoration and preservation of cemeteries and his comments to us should be interesting and helpful. Won't you fix your favorite dish and come to this meeting?

FEDERATION OF NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES: The annual meeting of this group is to be held on Friday, November 7, 1986, at the Hilton in Raleigh. Registration, including lunch and dinner, is \$25.00. The meeting will feature Charles Kuralt of CBS News, who will speak on his book, North Carolina Is My Home.

200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTION: You'll be reading and hearing more about our Constitution as plans are made for the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of its signing in 1787. The North Carolina General Assembly established a 21-member commission on the bicentennial of the U. S. Constitution in 1986 which will continue to work through the bicentennial of the State's ratification of the Bill of Rights in December 1989. The President of our Society has been asked to serve the Brunswick County appointee in an advisory capacity.

COMMENTS ON SOME OF THE PEOPLE BURIED IN THE OLD SMITHVILLE BURYING GROUNDS:

John Woodlock: Commissary Sgt. U.S.Army, Ft. Johnston. Committed suicide after the deaths of his three young daughters from diptheria during the epidemic in Smithville in the fall of 1876. The daughters, ESTHER SARAH, EMMA JOSEPHINE, and MARION, are buried near him in the corner of the cemetery formed by Rhett and Moore Streets.

Henry Gilbert: A seaman from the United States Revenue Cutter "Colfax", who was drowned June 26, 1895. His shipmates erected the monument at his grave in his memory.

Ann Dudley: Born June 17, 1783, died April 8, 1852. Before her health failed, Mrs. Dudley ran a famous boarding house on Bay Street known as the Carolina House. This house was torn down in fairly recent years.

Antonio Cassaletta: Now known locally as "Tony the Ghost". Tony was an Italian musician about 21 years old, and a member of a band of harpers engaged by the Hotel Brunswick to entertain the guests. He drowned in a sailing accident when the boat capsized and sank immediately. Two days later his body was recovered and was interred in the Old Smithville Burying Ground. He left a wife and young child in Wilmington. Local "ghost stories" say that his spirit still roams in the old Hotel Brunswick on the corner of Bay Street and Atlantic Avenue.

NOTE: More interesting items can be found by comparing information in The Cemeteries of Southport by Dorcas Schmidt, and Southport and Environs, a Chronology, by Bill

Reaves - Volumes I and II.