



# THE WHITTLES' BENCH

## Southport Historical Society

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### MEETING - November 15, 6:30pm

The Southport Historical Society meeting and Potluck Dinner will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2001 at 6:30pm at Trinity United Methodist Church on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Nash Street, across the street from the Post Office in Southport.

Program: A 300th Commemoration of John Lawson's Journey, including experiences with the Indians, on the old Trading Path through South and especially North Carolina. The presentation will include period maps, contemporary views of the old trading path, and a visit and first person presentation by John Lawson himself! If you haven't met John Lawson, you are in for a real treat.



### PRESIDENT'S NOTES

As I am sure you are aware, our Society has a two-term limit for our officers, including the President. (Fortunately, our terms are only two years, unlike the U.S. President; eight years would kill me!) In our January newsletter, I will try to summarize our last four years; many highs, a few "really lows". We have all tried to leave the Society better than we found it and I believe we have succeeded. Being President means that you are a nation-wide point of contact, and I have had many strange requests, questions, and offers. As other past presidents Don Johnson and Cheryl Daniel can attest, this stuff is like junk mail – it never goes away to the next incumbent. Stay in touch, folks!

Our cannon is becoming famous, having starred in two recent film productions (with substantial remuneration, thank you very much – hundreds of dollars!). The cannon committee is taking steps to have "Thor" registered as an available movie prop which should mean more regular, paid employment to support our various ceremonial endeavors. What an interesting ambassador for the Society!

We have two orphan serving spoons, left behind at the September dinner in the Community Building. I'll bring them to the November meeting, or you can give me a call at 457-6629.

Chris Suiter

### SHS Officers & Directors

President  
Chris Suiter 457-6629

Vice-President  
Peter Wyckoff 457-5599

Secretary  
Pat Kirkman 457-0579

Treasurer  
Wolf Furstenau 278-4050

Archivist  
Susie Carson

Directors  
Ann Brown 457-6710  
Becky Felton 457-5302  
Dick Hughes 253-9877

"The Whittler's Bench" prepared by  
Becky & Bert Felton, Ann Brown



## LOOKING BACK - THE HISTORY PAGE

Susan Carson, Editor



*Dr. W.C. Galloway was a physician who practiced in Wilmington but kept a summer home in Southport. His article, written for the Wilmington Dispatch in 1916, gives an excellent picture of Southport (Smithville) as it was during his childhood. Portions of the lengthy article have been selected for this column. Many of you will recognize a familiar Smithville figure, Dr. Curtis, in the story. Thanks again to the newspaper files of Bill Reaves for this bit of history.*

-Susie

W.C. Galloway Remembers  
WILIMINGTON DISPATCH, 11-19-1916

A good many of my kinsmen, now strangers, dwell in the fine old county of Brunswick, which is now (1916) beginning to come into her own, and having been born and reared there until my 15<sup>th</sup> year, I have always had a warm affection for her people. I came into the world in the usual way, in the lazy and lovely little village of Smithville, now Southport. Smithville is still a better name, and my range extended by water from the mouth of the Cape Fear River to Fort Fisher, and on land two or three miles back of the town. My circumscribed area, with my tender years, prevented an extended acquaintance with the out-lying territory and its people. While living at Smithville, beautiful our situation, dear old bon home town, with its wide streets, magnificent live oaks, fine harbor, and salubrious climate, I got beyond my narrow confines a few times. Once, as a little fellow, I went as far towards Supply as the cheery and hospitable home of the Mercers, a well-to-do and prominent family, from which sprung Lieutenant Mercer, a gallant and capable officer of the Confederate army. When about 11 years of age, I stopped one night with old Uncle Neal Galloway, a rich planter, who lived in a two-story house on a high bluff overlooking Lockwood's Folly river, about 1 1/2 miles from the ocean, on my way to see my father, Capt. John W. Galloway, of the Coast Guard, stationed at the short beach just south of the mouth of the above river. Again, at the age of 12, I walked unattended, from Fort Campbell, just below Fort Caswell, to Shallotte, a distance of about 22 miles, and followed the sea beach all the way, except a few miles this side of Shallotte, where I had to take the country road ...

Another time, as a lad of 13, I went with Philip Prioleau, of Smithville, a chum of mine, through the country over a deep, sandy road to Kendall rice plantation, the home, then, of the elder Owen Holmes. .. What elegant and charming hosts were Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, even to little boys and how courteous and charming the children were. I remember the air of refinement and gentility pervading the home, but more particularly the excellent and toothsome dinner served for Phillip and I ... How delicious was that dinner, and the dessert of blanc mange never tasted better this side of Olympus. We ate more voraciously than circumspect ... and we finally had to stop for fear of disgracing ourselves ....

Phillip and I were to go back to Smithville that night on the sloop ANNIE BELL upon the ebb of the tide, and Mr. Holmes was also to be a passenger. Phillip and I were students at a musical school under Dr. Curtis, of classic and hallowed memory, after whom I am named, and when we got into the boat we took seats together aft and began to hum some of the catchy songs we had been taught. Our voices had not changed - he singing soprano and I alto. The mate of the ANNIE BELL, a good-looking mulatto man, while we were singing a familiar song, interrupted us and said: "Boys, if you do not object, please let me bass that." The man's expression of basing the song was quite new and amusing to us. Mr. Holmes sat toward the bow of the boat, and finding we had some little knack of singing and that we would be delayed by the tide, kept us an hour or two rendering many of the old songs, "birthmarked with the joys and woes of the nation."

W. C. Galloway M.D. - 1916



## Annual Christmas Tour

Mark your calendars now for SHS's Annual Christmas Tour of Homes on December 8<sup>th</sup>. At present we have nine homes on the tour, four on N. Atlantic, one on W. West, one on N. Lord and three on N. Caswell. We're delighted that Randy Jones was able to hire the Wilmington Trolley for the afternoon and evening to make a circuit from the east side to the west side of town with designated stops. Jim McKee's reenactment group will be on the Garrison lawn and Thor, SHS's cannon, will be firing to begin and end the tours. Other activities include Holiday House sponsored by the Southport Woman's Club in the Community Building from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friends of the Library book sale at the New Old Jail from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., kids activities at the City Gym from 10 a.m. until noon, and the Flotilla starting at 5:30 p.m. Also, the merchants are planning to have extended hours that evening.

Once again we will have two tours, the first from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and the second from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of the tour and will be on sale as of November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Southport Visitor Center only.



If you are interested in hosting in one of the homes, please contact Cathy Fravel at 457-4794 or Kate Hardin at 457-6842.

Remember, Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 to 5 or 6:30 to 8:30. Tickets \$10 in advance available at Southport Visitor Center starting November 10<sup>th</sup>. Profit from the tour will be used to support local SHS projects including restoration of the Old Jail.



## Interested in Genealogy?

One of our longtime members, Susie Holtz, is willing to share her expertise in this area with any folks who are interested. She will be at the November meeting and you can talk to her then.

## Dues Due for 2002

It's that time again! Membership in the society is due before January, 2002. You will soon receive a reminder in the mail or you may use the form on the back of this newsletter

Memberships may be mailed or given to the treasurer at the November meeting. If you know persons who are not a member, please encourage them to join.

