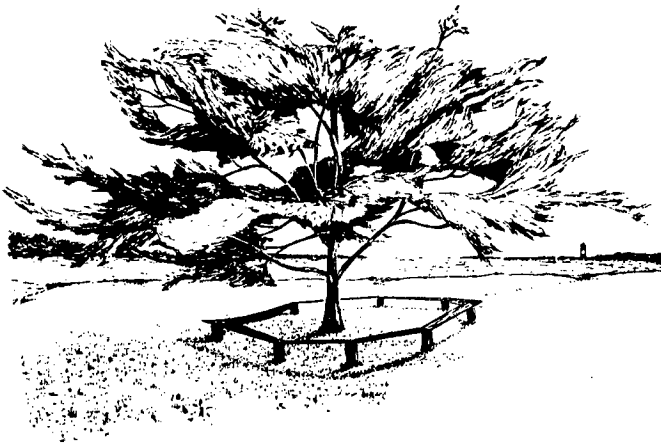


THE
WHITTLERS BENCH

Southport Historical Society

501 North Atlantic Avenue
Southport, North Carolina 28461

Vol. XVI No. 2 March 15, 1991



MEETING

The Southport Historical Society meeting will be held March 28, 1991 at Southport Baptist Church's Fellowship Hall at 7:30 P.M.

Ms. Jean Thrailkill will speak on her Great Grandfather who was a Methodist Circuit Rider during the Civil War. We are expecting you.

ARE YOU OUT THERE:

We included a dues notice in our last issue. Must be that everyone was preoccupied with current events; because, there was very limited feedback. Due to the higher cost of mailing and labor involved, a separate, individual dues notice will not be sent. You will find another form in this newsletter.

As stated in our by-laws, if dues are not received by June 30, you will no longer receive our informative and entertaining newsletter from the Whittlers Bench.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

This will be a very exciting year for our Society. We celebrate our Fifteenth Anniversary and we are preparing for next years bicentennial. Therefore, we do hope you will renew your subscription and membership. Also, please seek out interested persons and have them celebrate with us. Be a sustaining member and support Southport Historical Society.

OVER

1991 DUES

NAME _____

\$10 INDIVIDUAL

ADDRESS _____

\$15 HUSBAND/WIFE

\$25 SUSTAINING

\$150/200 LIFE

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

\$ _____ DONATION

MAIL TO: Southport Historical Society
501 North Atlantic Avenue
Southport, NC 28461

It is noted that neither the Editor or the Board of Directors have received any comments; ergo, we assume everyone is satisfied with our operation and programs. Now that "you all" are happy with the Society's doings, pass the word on to some of the folks that have dropped out to rejoin and support the Southport Historical Society. Our success depends on you, our faithful members, to spread the gossip and encourage others to participate.

If you have friends or relatives in the Military Service, please make copies of our newsletter and forward it to them. Although a Historical Society spends a lot of time researching and preserving the past, we are most interested in today's happenings and very strongly support the United States of America.

\$1000.00 CHALLENGE GRANT

The day following our annual meeting, we received a check from the State of North Carolina, Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History. The "Regional History Sites Program Grant" must be used for the "General Development of Public Attractions Program in Southport."

The Executive Board has budgeted matching funds and has accepted the challenge. With so many things that can and possibly should be done with this limited amount of money, and with the State regulations on grant expenditures; it is a real challenge to spend your money on worthwhile projects. We hope to be able to promote the Southport Historical Society and do something constructive for the heritage of Southport.

CEMETERIES

Our Cemetery Endowment Fund is not increasing! Many repairs are needed to restore and preserve the historic cemeteries in the City of Southport.

In the past year, we have seen several burials but we have not seen any donations to help with the perpetual care. The interest from our very small fund is too little to do any good at the time. If there is anyway you can publicize this problem and create more concern, please help.

GOSSIP

The best way to find out is to talk! First of all, it would be super if every member did an even better job of talking up our Society. But, more important, we do need help to implement an oral and video History Program. One of the best services an Historical Society can do is to record our senior citizens in the way it was: Growing up in Southport, coming to town on the train, heroes of the life saving stations, and legends on the waterfront.

OVER

We have all heard stories but how many have been recorded for future generations? Is not someone in our group interested in persuing this endeavor?

WALKING TOUR

The most exciting new brochure is "The Southport Path: A Self-guided Walking Tour". We have seen the drafts of this one mile tour of Historic Southport, and believe it will be a very popular handout. With a little luck, an advance copy may be available for your review at our next meeting.

For our out-of-town members that would like a copy, send us a large, self-addressed, stamped, envelope, and we will mail you a copy as soon as they roll off the press. The target date for printing is mid May. MANY THANKS FOR A CONTRIBUTION BY THE UNITED CAROLINA BANK TO COVER PUBLICATION EXPENSES.

For our local members we hope to assemble a longer walk, bike, or driving tour of Historic Southport. This brochure will contain detailed information, notes and items of interest. If you have any data or anedotes that should be included, please call Don Johnson, 457-4712, or even better, jot it down and give it to him. The object of these notes and accompanying map will be to educate interested persons. Perhaps we can make all of our members into tour guides.

BICYCLE TOUR

The Brunswick County Department of Recreation is sponsoring a bicycle trip on the evening of Saturday, May 16 and plans to include a historic tour ride through Southport. Will someone please join them and represent our Society. For additional information contact Donna Michaux, 278-5611, or the Brunswick County Recreation Department.

BICENTENNIAL QUILT

As discussed at our annual meeting, the Society will make a thirty square quilt to show scenes of Southport. Work is currently underway to complete the design patterns. Some may be ready for display at our next meeting, and all will be ready by May.

Mrs. Susan Kaufman, 457-9639, has graciously volunteered to keep the project going. We hope to begin crafting the first of June with the aid of a qualified instructor and a one night a week course through the Brunswick Community College.

This project is going to require the help of everyone that can make a stitch in-time. Do plan to sign up, it will be lots of fun.

SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
reported by Abbie Bitney, C.G.R.S.

The Southport Historical Society issues a Century Family Certificate and a Pioneer Family Certificate.

Any person whose family has lived in Brunswick County for at least 100 years or more is eligible for a Century Family Certificate. This is a good way to honor your family, or the family of a friend who may not know about our project. The Certificates are Gold Leaf, suitable for framing. It shows the name of the descendant as well as the ancestor. You are requested to prove that your family lived in Brunswick County by 1890, but that is not difficult with copies of the U. S. Census for the 1880 Brunswick County available so many places in this area. Look up your family in this census, make a note of the page number, and line number where they are listed and copy the recorded information listed on the family. You must then complete an application for the certificate. The cost is \$10.00, with the profit going into the Historical Society Cemetery Endowment Fund. Tax lists and land records are other ways to prove the family residence in Brunswick County for 100 years.

The Pioneer Family Certificate is more complicated. You must prove your family's residence in North Carolina prior to Statehood, 1787. You must furnish the information that proves the connection to the pioneer family.

Please send a long stamped return envelope to the Genealogy Committee, Southport Historical Society, 501 N. Atlantic Ave., Southport, NC 28461 and ask for an application. You may copy the application if you want more than one certificate. We want an application and its information, but no need to furnish duplications in proofs.

Brunswick Community College, Learning Resource Center, is making a collection of photo copies of family histories or other information that was recorded in Brunswick County Family Bibles. Two copies of the records are made of each of the pages of writing on Acid Free Paper. One set of the copies will be presented to the owners of the Bible, for their own use and safekeeping. The other copy will be placed in a reference section of the Learning Center and made available to researchers seeking to trace their family roots. Persons with Old Family Bibles are asked to contact Abbie Bitney, 457-9466, Susan Carson, 457-6329, or the Brunswick CC. Don't let the information in your Old Family Bible be lost!

The History Page — Susie Carson, Editor

NOTE: A copy of the following article was given to the History Page Editor many years ago by C. Ed. Taylor, a prominent attorney in Brunswick County from about 1898 until his death in the 1940's. On the back of the copy which he gave me he had written, "Noble Expression by Citizens of Brunswick County". That is what I have chosen to call it for the newsletter.

"NOBLE EXPRESSION BY CITIZENS OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY"

(FROM THE RECORD OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS AND
QUARTER SESSIONS)

NORTH CAROLINA :
: DECEMBER TERM 1866
BRUNSWICK COUNTY :

The Grand Jurors of the County of Brunswick aforesaid present to the Court now in session that they deem it proper at this time to give expression to their unanimous opinion upon a question which vitally affects the interest and honor of the State of North Carolina. They refer to the question of Repudiation. They bring themselves to believe that any considerable number of people of this state favor the repudiation of private or public debts, but there are those who have unadvisedly agitated this question. The Grand Jury desire to promulgate as the sentiment of the people of the county of Brunswick that every debt of the State as well as the citizens thereof should be honestly discharged. They are sensible that the terrible ravages of war and the loss and destruction of property resulting therefrom have greatly impaired the means of our people and consequently their ability at present to meet promptly their obligations; but the war has left our honor impaired and this we cannot consent to surrender.

The Grand Jury impressed with the great importance of the subject, and charged as they are to inquire into all matters affecting the welfare of the county, feel themselves called upon to make this presentment of their views, being satisfied that if the people of the State had it in their power to repudiate their debts and contracts that such a policy would be ruinous and destructive of their best interest and remain a standing reproach to North Carolina.

They trust the Legislature may be able to afford to the debtor some relief by allowing him time to discharge his obligations, but they believe the public interest will be subserved and the public credit to a great extent restored by a declaration of that honorable body that under no circumstances will North Carolina repudiate her debts and that every obligation assumed by her shall be fully performed.

It was ordered by the Court that this presentment made by the Grand Jury should be received by the Court and by them ordered that it should be spread upon the minutes of this Court, together with the names of the Grand Jurors who presented the same:

Ezekiel Little
Daniel McKeithan
Wm. Phelps
Isaac Gore
Stephen Hall

Philip Cox
Isaiah Fulford
J. J. Flowers
W. J. Davis
Zach Murrell

Stanley Vick
W. W. Stanley
Joseph Gore
Bryan Mintz
John H. Brooks, who was fore-
man of said Jury

The foregoing is a true copy of the report of the Grand Jury at the December term 1866, page 16 and 17, Record C.

On Page 1 of the same I find that there were present holding the said term:

Daniel L. Russell, Sr.
John D. Taylor
W. G. Curtis

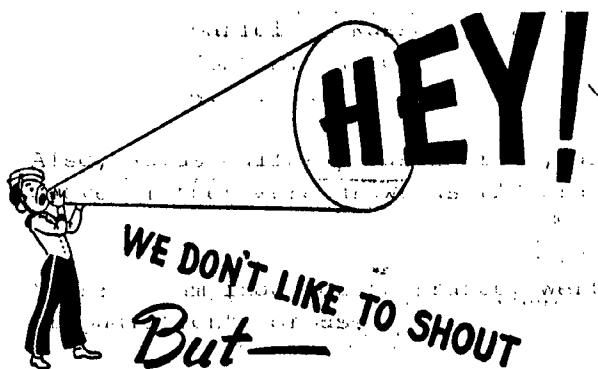
Wm. R. Doshier
Reubin J. Long
James M. King

Also, Rufus Galloway was sheriff, and returned a venire of 30 men, from which the above fifteen were drawn as the Grand Jury

NOTE: I am indebted to Francey Wertz for securing the following information about "repudiation" for us:

(Public Debt) The states have the right to repudiate debts if they wish since they have inherent sovereign powers. On two occasions, the most significant being in the South after the ousting of the carpetbagger governments following the Civil War, states have repudiated debts outright. Local governments technically are corporations and not sovereign governments, have no sovereign powers and thus can be sued and cannot repudiate debt.

(N. C.) The Convention of 1865 repealed the ordinance of secession, declared slavery abolished, repudiated the state war debt, and scheduled elections for the establishment of a constitutional state government. Jonathan Worth, the elected governor, was an honest and capable official, but the government established shortly thereafter in accordance with the views of Congress was corrupt, inefficient, and tyrannical.



THIS IS SOMETHING MIGHTY IMPORTANT

P. S. Roy also gave us a subscription to the Genealogical Helper (magazine).

Our very good friend, Roy Pollitt, of Prince George, Virginia, has given us quite a few more books for our genealogical library collection. We will be publishing a list of these real soon. In the meantime, if the "Genealogy Bug" bites you like it has Cheryl Daniel, call Susie, Francey or Ann and one of us will see that you get to look at the collection. THANKS, ROY.