

You are invited to
Southport Historical Society's



Monday - January 25 - 6:00 p.m.

Trinity Methodist Church

Spaghetti & Salad Dinner

with Anniversary Cake

No charge but reservations are necessary before

Thursday January 21

E-mail: patkirkman@gmail.com

or call Pat at 910-457-0579

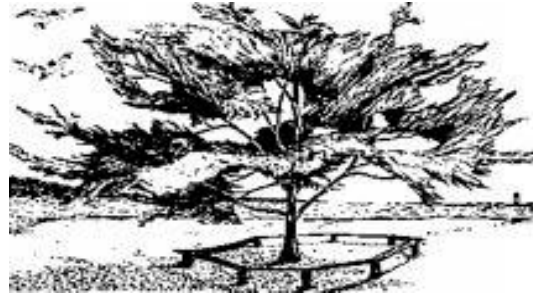
(your reservation will be confirmed with a return e-mail or call)

We'll be happy to see you!

southport historical society

Whittler's Bench

Winter 2016



IMPORTANT DATES

- **January 25, General Business Meeting, 6:00pm, Catered Dinner, Trinity Methodist Church**
- **2nd Tuesday Talks – Speakers every 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am at the Margaret and James Harper, Jr. Library**
- **March 24, Chris Fonvielle, 6:30pm, Dinner, Southport Community Building**
- **May 26, Brooks Newton Preik, 6:30. Dinner, Southport Community Building**

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Southport Historical Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization registered under 501(c)(3) of Internal Revenue Code dedicated to bring together persons interested in local area history. SHS endeavors to do so by providing opportunities for learning through programs and special events; published articles and books; educational classes; and community projects that will both enhance and preserve the unique history and heritage of Southport and the surrounding area. The Southport Historical Society was established January 1976 and maintains the Old Jail on Nash St. and the Susie Carson Research Room in the Garrison.

OFFICERS:

President: Musette Steck
Vice President: Don Parker
Secretary: Charles Christianson
Treasurer: Phil Fravel

DIRECTORS:

Pat Kirkman
Betsie Lytton
Joni Schinske
Bob Surridge

PO BOX 10014
Southport, NC 28461

info@southporthistoricalsociety.org

Musings from Musette, President SHS

When the Southport Historical Society (SHS) was organized forty years ago, it was the only club whose mission statement included the intent to “provide programs of historical interest for the purpose of education”. We have others now presenting programs of historical interest, which I enjoy, but only the SHS continues to offer programs which help one better understand the history of Southport and the Lower Cape Fear. We have continued to educate the community through displays at the Garrison and Old Jail, the Susie Carson Research Room, the cannon THOR, brochures and books, many historical markers sited throughout Southport as well as through free tours of the Old Jail and Old Smithville Burying Ground.

The SHS Board of Directors recently voted to offer historic plaques to seven churches that have existed for at least 75 years. They are Bethel Baptist, First Baptist, Friendship Baptist, St. Philips Episcopal, St. James AMEZ, Brown's Chapel AMEZ and Southport Presbyterian. We also voted to support the efforts of members, Karen Knighton and the late Georgianna Morris representing the Woman's Club project to place a historical marker on Lord Street designating the county's first black high school. In October we inaugurated Second Tuesday Talks at Harper Library. Every month will feature a new topic and speaker.

Although my term as president is over this month, I intend to continue promoting the mission of SHS by teaching our local history at the Brunswick Community College Annex on Lord Street.

Musette Steck
President



The Southport Historical Society
40th Anniversary Milestone – January 2016
by Pat Kirkman

January 2016 marks the 40th anniversary of the origination of the Southport Historical Society. Archived remarks from co-founder, Eleanor Smith, at the 10th anniversary (1986) celebration stated “. . . it was January 15 (1976) to be exact and there were 19 of us who gathered on that cold night in the Board Room of the Public Library.” Inspiration to form a society came from the excitement of the upcoming 1976 National Bicentennial Celebration. Southport is an old town, established in 1792, but had never had any kind of historical society or association before this group was formed. Mrs. Smith continued her remarks on the idea of creating an organization “. . . I guess it was really our nation's Bicentennial emphasis. We were hearing so much about history on every level that it was only natural that sooner or later Southport would get in on the movement. And, just think in seven more years (1992) Southport will be 200 years old, our very own Bicentennial. I hope we can plan something special to celebrate that event.” Susie Carson, recognized as the town's historian for many years, was co-founder along with Mrs. Smith. These two ladies acted on an inspiration that continues today.

The Society did go on to celebrate with Founders' Day in May 1992 especially honoring descendants of Joshua Potts who is recognized as the town's 1792 founder. The organization continued to flourish and 20th, 30th and now 40th anniversaries celebrated. Present membership is 170 with plans underway to add at least 40 more members during this month. There are only four known charter members still living. Three in Southport and one out of state.

The original mission of the society continues to serve as a guide to direct our efforts and activities. The purpose of the society is stated as follows: “To bring together persons interested in the history of Southport and the surrounding areas. Understanding the history of our community is basic to our democratic way of live and gives us a better understanding of our state and nation and promotes a better appreciation of our American heritage. The society's basic function is to discover and collect materials which help illustrate the history of the area. The society provides for the preservation of such material and its accessibility as far as is feasible for all who visit to examine or study it. It also cooperates with city officials in the preservation of the town's records and archives, and encourages the preservation of historic buildings, monuments and markers.”

Accomplishments throughout these forty years have been many, including the distribution of a newsletter (*The Whittler's Bench*), publication and circulation of numerous books on local history, developing a museum at the Old Brunswick County Jail located in Southport, funding annual scholarships to high school seniors, establishing an archival research room and on-line resource site, cooperating with the city with displays in the City Museum, offering monthly history presentations to the public, establishment of a heritage garden, cooperation in creating historical signage for the city, critical assistance in the preservation of the 18th century burying ground, recognition of the architectural history of the town, participation in a recent historic survey of Brunswick County, using the cannon THOR to highlight public and private events, creation of a walking tour of Southport brochure, and conducting an annual Christmas tour of homes. Many other activities could be added to this list if space allowed.

The celebration of the 40th anniversary will take place on Monday, January 25 with a dinner meeting at 6:00 pm at Trinity Methodist Church. The program will include a photographic look back at the history of the society, personal recognitions and election of officers. Further information about SHS can be found at www.southporthistoricalsociety.org

Old Jail Report – 2015

The Old Jail closed for the 2015 season on October 31st, but was reopened for the Society's Christmas House Tour on December 12. During 2015 the Old Jail received a total of 2,899 visitors who donated \$1,432.45 and purchased books totaling nearly \$1,000.

During the year the new moonshine still display was very well received. Thanks to Nancy and Charles Christianson for putting this display together. On the second floor, the display of first responder patches is so popular that it is outgrowing the space needed to hang them. Thanks to Shirley Johnston for posting and documenting the newly received patches.

In July and August we experimented with opening the Old Jail on Friday afternoons in addition to Wednesdays and Saturdays. We did this to accommodate weekly renters who must leave their rental properties before 12:30 PM on Saturdays when we open for tours. A special appreciation goes to those docents who volunteered to support the new Friday schedule.



Old Jail – Christmas 2015

As we close this year for work on new displays, we want to thank Dottie Capriotti, who handles the task of scheduling docents. We also want to thank all the docents who conduct the tours and tell our visitors the history of the Jail. We also thank Nancy Christianson who manages the Old Jail for the Society. Without all these folks the Old Jail Museum would not be the kind of attraction that helps make Southport such a special place for visitors and residents.

Christmas Tour of Homes by Phil Fravel

It was another good year for Southport Historical Society's Christmas Tour of Homes, the 26th year of this event and 15th year of our sponsorship. Our event was part of the City of Southport's Winterfest Festival and was held on December 12, 2015. We were very fortunate to have ten homes available for the tour and we would like to thank each of the homeowners: Becky and Pete Haislip, Alexis Graves, Gail Clements, Michelle and Robert Carroll, Linda and Charlie DeTorres, Bill Duke, Jean Dixson and Dan McDonald, Dee Crocker and Don Ihlefeld, Dawn Strickland and Buddy Coleman, and Shirley and Matt Watson.

Thanks to the generosity of these homeowners, and the Home Tour Committee, we anticipate a profit close to \$10,000.00. Proceeds are used to further our mission to bring together persons interested in the history of Southport and to promote a better appreciation of our heritage. Funds from this event will enable the Society to continue to maintain the Old Jail on Nash Street, provide funds for scholarships at South Brunswick High School and continue to enhance the Susie Carson Research Room at the Visitors Center. An incredible amount of time and effort by the Home Tour committee members and the homeowners goes into organizing the Tour. The Home Tour committee greatly appreciates the members and Homeowner's support and interest in the Tour.

Next Year's tour will be held on Saturday December 10, 2016. If you want to mark your calendar for future Home Tours, it is always held on the Second Saturday in December. As always, **we are in need of Homes for the Tour**, so if you are willing to have your home on the 2016 tour please contact Shirley Wilson at 910-617-6720 or Phil Fravel at 910-512-7597 or contact the Society from our Web Site,

<http://www.southporthistoricalsociety.org/>.



Programs Scheduled for 2016

The Society has scheduled some exciting programs for 2016 which will cover a host of topics of interest. Just around the corner, the Society will celebrate its 40th anniversary during our annual business meeting scheduled for January 25th at Murrow Hall at Trinity Methodist Church beginning at 6:00 PM. In addition to providing an overview of activities over the past year, there will be a program highlighting the 40 year "history" of the Southport Historical Society. Dinner will be catered and reservations are required. Please see the separate announcement of this very special program within this issue of Whittlers Bench.

On March 24th, Dr. Chris Fonvielle of UNC-Wilmington, will return for another program on the Lower Cape Fear. The topic has yet to be determined but, as always, Dr. Fonvielle will certainly deliver a memorable program. Southport native Ms. Brooks Newton Preik will be the featured speaker for our program on May 26th. An author and renown story-teller, Brooks will be providing a program on her great-aunt and Southport icon, Kate Stuart. On September 22nd, the program will feature a presentation coordinated with the Southport Wooden Boat Show. The annual Wooden Boat Show has proven to be a very popular event over recent years and discussion is on-going to dovetail our September program with this year's show.

On the Second Tuesday of January (12th), Southport resident and SHS Board member nominee Scott Len will start the 2016 Second Tuesday Talk series. Scott's talk will be about the men and activities of Southport's Camp Sapona, which was a 1930s era camp operated by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Southport historian Donnie Joyner will talk about African-American history on Tuesday, February 9th. On March 8th, Tim Terman will talk about the sinking of the tanker JOHN GILL during WW II. Local aviator and native son Donald Sellers will talk about the menhaden fishing industry on April 12th.

We hope you will put these programs on your calendar and plan to spend these special evenings with your fellow members!

SHS Board Nominations

The Nominating Committee has developed the following proposed slate for the 2016 Board of Directors.

President - Don Parker

Vice President - Pat Kirkman

Director - Scott Len

Director - Nancy Christianson

Continuing Secretary - Charles Christianson

Continuing Treasurer - Phil Fravel

Continuing Director - Joni Schinske

Continuing Director - Bob Surridge

Ex-Officio - Musette Steck

The President, Vice President, and new Directors will be formally voted upon at the January 25th General Membership meeting.



The Frying Pan by Pat Kirkman

It could be that for most of us the only thing we know about “The Frying Pan” is the new restaurant on Southport’s yacht basin where Paul and Maria serve up some good seafood. But let’s investigate this strange name – Frying Pan – where did that come from and what’s the story behind its significance here on the Cape Fear and even in New York City.



The Frying Pan Restaurant at the Yacht Basin

First, let’s define the area from whence the name derived. The Frying Pan Shoals are a long, shifting area of shoals off the coast of Cape Fear River near Bald Head Island. The first mention of the name is on a 1770 map that indicates the shoals looked like the long-handle of an old fashioned frying pan. The line of shallow sandbars extend from the tip of Bald Head (the pan) about 28 miles into the Atlantic Ocean. The shoals have been a hazard to ships in the area since the beginning of European exploration in the 1500’s.

Nicknamed “The Graveyard of the Atlantic”, the entire coast of North Carolina is littered with shipwrecks. The presence of the shoals is why the Cape Fear River Pilots have spent the past 300 years piloting ships around those shoals to safely reach harbor. Between 1994 and 2008, over 130 new shipwreck locations were discovered in the area encompassing Frying Pan Shoals. The area is also a great fishing destination.

Now that we know where we are let’s talk about the warning lights marking the shoals. In 1854 a wooden hull lightship was first assigned to Frying Pan Shoals. It had two lights 40 feet above water level and was stationed there until taken to Fort Caswell by the Union forces and burned on the last day of December, 1861. The Navy sent another lightship to replace it but it was taken by the Confederates and sunk in 1864 mainly to provide an obstruction for the Union blockaders and other ships trying to get into the Cape Fear during the last days of the Civil War. The government sent another lightship in 1865 and this was the first one to have *Frying Pan Shoals* painted on its sides.

A number of lightships stood guard by the shoals throughout the years and the ninth and last of these was



The Frying Pan Lightship at Southport – c. 1970

the one built in dry dock at Charleston in 1929. This 133-foot in length replacement was the first such vessel on the east coast to have diesel-electric engines and electric powered lights. Her two beacons were located 65 feet above the water line. She carried two 7,000- pound mushroom anchors. One held her on station and one was an emergency spare used in storms and hurricanes. The cost was \$791,090. This *Frying Pan* served 34 years until it was decommissioned by the Coast Guard in 1964. At that time a 125-foot “Texas tower” (100 feet off the ocean floor) was constructed 28 miles south of Southport and manned by a Coast Guard crew until 1979. Lightships had seen their day on the Cape Fear coast. After leaving here the ship served three years as a relief lightship at Cape May, New Jersey. In 1967 she was given to the City of Southport with the intention of becoming a nautical museum and given temporary berthing positions here and there along the river.

So, this brings us up to The Frying Pan’s tumultuous history at the foot of Howe Street near the Whittler’s Bench. For quite a few years she listed and bobbed around there even breaking her moorings a few times requiring rescues by local tugs. A lightship commission was formed by the city to come up with a plan for renovating the old girl into a tourist attraction and

museum. The following excerpt from the August 1972 edition of the Brunswick County Historical Society's newsletter outlines the proposed plan of action:

The permanent berthing of Frying Pan Lightship on Southport's waterfront in July 1972 marked the completion of the first phase in a six part program for renovating and preserving the old lightship. The second phase will involve sandblasting and repainting of the exterior and main deck. Phase three calls for sandblasting and painting the after deck and radio beacon room and installation of the lights. Renovation of the pilot wheel house, CO's quarters, lower deck and ward room will constitute the fourth and fifth stages of this project. During Phase Six the crew's quarters and all areas forward of the ward room, including the galley, are scheduled to be renovated. Frying Pan Lightship offers a unique opportunity to preserve a tangible part of Lower Cape Fear history. It is hoped that the lightship will also become the nucleus of a general museum in which the story of navigation in this area over the centuries will be portrayed through artifacts, displays and exhibits.

Alas, the plan failed. After five years, The Frying Pan had become an eyesore and hazard floating around at the end of Howe Street. Even though an estimated \$40,000 to \$50,000 had been poured into the ship and many hours of volunteer manpower, there seemed no hope that the museum plan would come together. Here is another excerpt. This one from the minutes of the Lighthouse Commission meeting on February 23, 1977:

(The committee was) in agreement that the money would have served a much better purpose used for the hospital, the Rescue Squad and other things in town. They felt that the cost of the plans alone were very expensive. They all agreed that when the City acquired the ship many years ago the majority of the people wanted it, but after fruitless attempts over and over again and the situation becoming worse, The Frying Pan lightship did not hold the charm she once had. It was further agreed that from the beginning advice from local citizens who had firsthand knowledge of the dangers of the Cape Fear River should have been taken. . . . The people voted to tax themselves to keep a hospital, but the committee felt that these same people, many of whom live on unpaved streets, are frowning on money being spent for something they do not consider important any longer. The high cost of living is upper-most in their minds now. . . . The final agreement of the Frying Pan Lightship Committee of Concerned Citizens recommends that the ship be returned to the Coast Guard or another town that is better able financially to restore her.

It actually took another four years for the city to rid itself of the red-painted "albatross" in her waters. The Coast Guard did not want it back and finally a private buyer took it northward to Salisbury, Maryland. The Frying Pan was soon abandoned while docked at an old oyster cannery in the Chesapeake Bay and eventually she just sank, remaining underwater for about three years. Raised and ready to be scrapped, she was instead purchased, cleaned up, refitted with a new engine and in 1989 sailed into the Hudson River, New York City. After more renovation, The Frying Pan began to enjoy the "high life" as a nightclub and special events venue. She is docked at Pier 66 at 26th Street and 12th Avenue in Manhattan.



Lewis Hardee, Jr.'s conceptual painting of the lightship as a nautical museum



In 2012 I was in NYC for a week and one of the sights high on my list was to visit The Frying Pan. My granddaughter and I first saw her while on a harbor cruise and then we made our way down to the docks to go aboard. It was June and graduation parties were in full swing with music, food and drink from bow to stern. The ship had a rustic ambiance, no polished brass or fancy decorations but it was lively and especially interesting to me as I poked around thinking about her early years right here on the Cape Fear. I was not in Southport when she floated around the waterfront but it was easy to imagine her there as I walked around the decks and looked into her portholes. I was a little regretful that we didn't still have her but happy that she was alive and well in the Big Apple. The old girl is now 85 years old and has had a checkered past but she's still a sight to behold!



The Frying Pan in New York's harbor – June, 2012

Note: Information for this article was gathered from documents available in the Southport Historical Society's archives. You can access this resource by going to our website www.southporthistoricalsociety.org and clicking on Research Room then go to the Susie Carson Research Room Link. Look for Subject Files then find the link for Frying Pan Lightship. There's much more to read. The current owner of the ship has a website at www.fryingpan.com that updates you on what's going on with the ship now. And, if you go to New York, check her out!

Old Smithville Burying Grounds Stone Repair by Charles Christianson

Charles Burdick of Mint Hill, NC recently asked if he could help the Society fix some stones in the Old Smithville Burying Ground as he has repaired many stones throughout North Carolina. Charles Christianson selected some stones that could be repaired in the three-day time period that C. Burdick had available to help us. Marvin Johnson was also asked to support the effort. We started at the A. T. Bowen stone as the foundation was complete above ground, the head stone was broken into three pieces, and it needed a lot of work. Once the parts were isolated, the ground dug for a new foundation, better bricks were found in the cemetery. Marvin Johnson created a new foundation with cement mortar. The stones were cleaned so the sections could be glued together. When the lower stone section was in place and did not move, the other sections were glued to the lower section. The head stone is now sitting upright.



A.T. Brown Headstone – Before (L) and After Repair(R)

Next, we worked on the Emma Scribner stone that is located at Burying Ground location BN-D6. This stone was broken and was lying flat on the ground. It was in a path way so it was being walked on. The stone was dug up, the lower section found, the stone was cleaned so the two pieces could be glued together, the stone was placed upright, and then the head stone was totally cleaned.



Emma Scribner Headstone – Before (L) and After Repair (R)

The third stone worked on was the Eliza Sellers stone at Burying Ground location BN-G6. An effort was made to repair this stone about two years ago, unfortunately the glue did not hold well, so it fell again. Charles Burdick brought a different type of epoxy, and that was used. Hopefully, it is fixed for the next 10 years plus.



Eliza Sellers Headstone – Before (L) and After Repair (R)

The final stone we repaired was the stone of Blockade Runner Cornelius Smith. The stone is located at Burying Ground location NR-A1. The design of the stone is that of a cross. The cross stone of his wife, Fannie McKeithan, is still standing and earlier we added material to its foundation to make it steady and to stop the wobbling. Fannie's cross stone can be seen from Rhett street. We estimate that Cornelius's stone has been on the ground for about 40 years. Fannie's Stone was seen the 1980's film "Crimes Of The Heart", however Cornelius's, which is located right next to Fannie's, cannot be seen. The major obstacle to righting Cornelius's stone is that it is very heavy and we are afraid that it won't safely stand by itself. However, with Charles Burdick's help, we were able to get the lower part of the Cornelius's cross into its foundation, and a new material was used to secure it. To add the cross, we plan to make a lift so that the top of the cross can be lifted into place and held there until the epoxy dries.



Cornelius Smith Headstone - Before Repair



Cornelius Smith Headstone – After Repair

Web Master Needed

The Society's website (southporthistoricalsociety.org) is in need of a new webmaster. Surely there is one among us who would like to take on this important function. If this sounds like something you would like to discuss with us, please call Bob Surridge at 570-899-2525. You could be a vital "link" in keeping the society's information current and attractive (and you can work from home with no committee meetings!) We do have folks visiting our website and would like to keep it updated and running smoothly. Please consider this if you have experience in this area. It would much appreciated!

Find us on Facebook



Yes, it is true! The Southport Historical Society has joined many of the Society's members and friends and launched a Facebook page. We are using our page to keep our members and friends informed about the Society's events and activities and to post information about Southport's history and heritage. We hope you will "Find us on Facebook" and of course let us know that you "Like" the Southport Historical Society.

Membership Dues Reminder

SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY annual dues for 2016 are now due. We have lots of new opportunities and programs planned for the coming year and hope you will take part in them. Please bring your dues to the meeting on January 25th or mail your check today to: Pat Kirkman, SHS Membership Committee, PO Box 10014, Southport, NC 28461

SHS Membership Dues for 2016 are:

Individual	\$ 15
Couple	\$ 25
Student	\$ 2
Business	\$ 15
Life (Individual)	\$150
Life (Business or couple)	\$200

The Susie Carson Research Room Is Online!

The Society's collection of research materials are now easily available to Southport friends and family across the country (world).

southporthistoricalsociety.org/research-room

Susie Carson Research Room

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Welcome to the Southport Historical Society's [LINK](#)
Susie Carson Research Room

Research Collections	Availability
Bit of History weekly columns from the <i>StarNews</i> (1999 - 2007)	Online (complete collection)
The Way it Was Photo Column (The State Port Pilot)	Online (complete collection)
Brunswick County Historical Society Newsletters (1961 - 2005)	Online (complete collection)
Chronology of Southport Volumes I - V (1520 - 1990)	Online (complete collection)
People/Genealogy Files	Online (complete collection)
Images	Online (partial collection)
Reference Books	At the SCRR (complete collection)
Reports and Articles	Online (partial collection)
Subject Files	Online (complete collection)
Whittler's Bench Newsletters (1976 to present).	Online (complete collection)

Historic Southport - Self-Guided Tour [VIEW](#)

Find us on Facebook

Books by Local Authors

Masters of the Shoals
John McNeil

SOUTHPORT (SMITHVILLE)
A Chronology

Ms. Bonnie Soper - Spring 2016 Intern

We are proud to announce that UNCW graduate student Bonnie Soper accepted the Society's invitation to serve as the 2016 Spring Semester Susie Carson Research Room intern. Ms. Soper is currently in her second year of graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She is majoring in history with a minor in public history and hopes to work in museums after graduating. She loves researching local history and is looking forward to spending the Spring with the Southport Historical Society. Please take time to welcome Bonnie to the Southport Historical Society family.

The Society would also like to thank former intern Leslie Randle-Morton for her great work and service to the Southport Historical Society. Good luck and best wishes for the future!



From the Chronology of Southport – Volume V Southport Historical Society – Membership in 1976

1976 - The membership of the Southport Historical Society included: Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Aldridge; Mrs. F. M. Burdette; Mrs. Leslie Bellows; Mrs. Susan S. Carson; Mr. and Mrs. Mark P. Connaughton; Mr. and Mrs. William S. Dunn; Mrs. Ester Davis; Mr. Jerry Ennis; Mr. Jack Fairly; Mrs. Murley Hood; Mrs. Dan Harrelson; Mrs. Ray Hon; Mr. Edward N. Lewis; Robert E. Nicholson; Mrs. Doris O'Daniel; Mr. E.Z. Pancoast; Mrs. Dallas Pigott; Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Page, Jr.; Mrs. Grace P. Ruark; Capt. Walter S. Reinheimer; Mrs. Herman Rodgers; Mr. William Reaves; Mrs. Eleanor P. Smith; Mrs. H. A. Schmidt; Mr. and Mrs. John Julius Swain; Mrs. Jessie L. Swan; Mr. Afton W. Smith; Mr. Woodrow Spencer; Mrs. Elizabeth St. Ana; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sias; Mr. and Mrs. William R. Thorsen; Mrs. Johnson Whittaker; Miss Annie Mae Woodside and Mrs. Johnny Watkins.

Corrections

In our Fall 2015 Whittler's Bench story about the Old Jail Heritage Stone for Dr. J. Arthur Doshier, Dr. Doshier's wife's first name was printed as "Brace" instead of "Grace". Also, it was incorrectly stated that Dr. Pat Hatem, is a descendant of Dr. J. Arthur Doshier.

Garrison Exhibit

In November, the Society prepared a new exhibit that is on display at the Southport Visitor's Center. WOMEN OF SOUTHPORT: AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY highlights the lives and contributions of Southport women during the Progressive Era. Thanks to UNCW intern Leslie Randle-Morton and to all our members and friends who helped her make this exhibit possible.



New Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest SHS members:

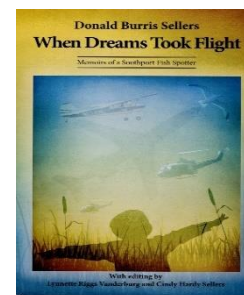
Marsha Wood
 Ken and Elaine Waddell
 Catherine Clegg
 Chris and DiAne Benzie
 Tim and Maureen Terman
 Lori Sanderlin
 Daniel and Theresa Berkshire



Local Books

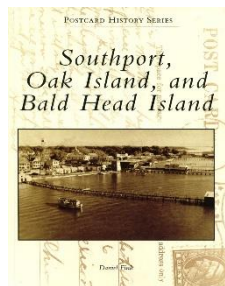
When Dreams Took Flight: Memoirs of a Southport Fish Spotter by Donald Burris Sellers
 August 11, 2015 – 179 pages, 90+ color photos

Donald Sellers grew up in aviation in Southport's menhaden fishing business. His boyhood idol and mentor, Hall Watters, was a fish-spotting pioneer who also taught many airline pilots to fly. *When Dreams Took Flight* tells the story of Donald's childhood around the fish factory and flying with Hall in his Super Cub, his dream of becoming a pilot when he grew up, and the fulfillment of that dream through a varied career in Army helicopters in Vietnam, single-engine fish-spotting aircraft up and down the east coast, and finally, his 20 years of airline flying from Piedmont Aviation to US Airways. Of special interest to local historians and history buffs is Donald's description and photos of the menhaden fishing industry from his boyhood in the 1950s through the late 1970s, when he began flying for Piedmont Aviation. Contact Don Sellers at donsellers@ec.rr.com for a copy of his book.



Southport, Oak Island, and Bald Head Island by Daniel Fink
 April 21, 2014 – 128 pages, 179 black and white photos

Similar to their "Images of America" series, Arcadia Publishing's "Postcard History Series" uses photographs to tell the stories of American communities. The publisher notes that postcards were "... a primary method of communication in the early 1900s, postcards captured moments in time and, many years later, are often the only images of buildings, monuments, and places left in existence". Each vintage postcard helps to preserve the past and each collection of postcards can provide the reader with a *magic carpet ride* through local history.



The author of *Southport, Oak Island, and Bald Head Island* is Southport resident and Historical Society member Daniel Fink. Using a collection of postcards provided to him by Benjamin C. Celinski of the Southport Times, Fink escorts readers through a collection of one-hundred and seventy nine black and white photos of our three communities. Dan's book is available at the following locations: Bull Frog Corner, The Maritime Museum, both Walgreen Stores, Stewart's Hardware, Ricky Evans and the Southport Visitor Center.

BOOKS SOLD BY THE SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

southporthistoricalsociety.org/book-store

<i>A History of Fort Johnston</i> By Wilson Angley	A comprehensive history of a North Carolina colonial fort, which is the historic centerpiece of the city of Southport.
<i>Architecture of Southport</i> By Carl Lounsbury	A survey with a brief history and photographs of 151 Southport homes and other structures made in 1978.
<i>Before We Were Quaint,</i> by Larry Maisel	This book is a result of more than a dozen years of research, more than 80 interviews.
<i>Cap'n Charlie and the Lights of the Lower Cape Fear</i> By Ethel Herring	Story of Captain Charles Swan and his many years with the US Lighthouse Service, especially at Bald Head Island.
<i>The Cemeteries of Southport</i> Compiled By Dorcas W. Schmidt	An inventory of gravesites and tombstones published in 1983 for the Old Smithville Burying Ground and other local cemeteries.
<i>Chronology of Smithville/Southport, Volumes I, II, III, IV, and V (1520 – 1990)</i> By Bill Reaves	Five volume chronology covering 470 years of the history of Southport (Smithville) and surrounding community.
<i>Classic Southport Cooking</i> By Lewis J. Hardee, Jr.	"Southport's Signature Cookbook". There are over 700 recipes with many coming from the town's best cooks past and present.
<i>Haunted Wilmington and the Cape Fear Coast</i> by Brooks Newton Preik	Ghost stories...some horrifying, some whimsical, some bizarre. And all of them, according to their terrified witnesses, "true."
<i>Of Home and River</i> by Lewis J. Hardee Jr.	A native son relates stories of the "children of the river" laced with humor, heartaches, tears and a little scandal here and there.
<i>Hominy Muffins and Oyster Pie</i> by Bob Surridge	Life stories of 54 Southport ladies who contributed their recipes to a 1907 church cookbook. Also includes nearly 100 of their everyday recipes.
<i>Joshua's Dream – The Story of Old Southport – A Town with Two Names</i> by Susan S. Carson	The most comprehensive published history of Smithville/Southport is in this book.
<i>Joshua's Legacy – Dream Makers of Old Southport</i> Edited by Susan S. Carson* and Jon C. Lewis	Compilation of stories about the people who built the town we now know as Southport.
<i>Lelia Jane, A Very Gentle Lady – A Half Century of Life in Old Southport</i> by Susie Carson* and Larry Maisel	This charming book began as a family memoir project and developed into a short history of the town's lifestyle between 1922 and 1972.
<i>Long Beach, A North Carolina Town: Its Origin and History</i> By Wolfgang Furstenau	Fifty years of the development of this beach town are covered including maps, photographs, and short biographies.
<i>Masters of the Shoals: Tales of the Cape Fear Pilots Who Ran the Union Blockade</i> by Jim McNeil	Recounting of blockade-runners' tales with photographs and maps.
<i>Reminiscences of Wilmington and Smithville-Southport 1848-1900</i> by Dr. Walter G. Curtis (1905) and edited by Wolfgang Furstenau (1999)	This small book gives an inside look at one man's thinking on topical ideas and issues over some fifty years before the turn of the 20th century.
<i>Southport Secrets</i> Compiled by Don Johnson	Little known and well known facts of the town's history are written in this book describing local scenes.
<i>ree Southern Families</i> by Lewis J. Hardee Jr.	A history connecting the Hardee, Jones and Davis families of Coastal North Carolina