

southport historical society

Whittler's Bench Fall 2019



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Parker's Perspective



This is a bittersweet column for me to write. After 17 years in the area, Debbie and I decided earlier this year to begin planning for a move to Florida to be nearer to family. When we placed our house on the market in August, we did not expect it to go under contract so quickly. But here we are looking at a scheduled closing in mid-October assuming the process goes as planned.

With a few months remaining on my second term as President and things moving quickly on the sale of the house, it was necessary to hand over the leadership of the Society sooner rather than later. It is with great pleasure that I can announce that the Board of Directors unanimously appointed Bob Surridge to fulfill the remainder of my term as President effective with the General Membership meeting on September 26th. He will be the Acting President until such time as there is a formal vote on the entire slate of officers and directors for 2020 at our Annual General Membership meeting in February.

Bob Surridge has been selected to be nominated for President by the Nominating Committee to fulfill the Presidency in 2020-21. Officers and directors have been identified to fill positions to be vacated next year. The slate of all nominations will be announced at the November meeting in accordance with our By-Laws. Suffice it to say, the Nominating Committee has provided a very strong slate to carry the Society forward in the coming years.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you in the Southport Historical Society for your support and participation over the years. We will miss you and think of you often when we finally arrive at our new location in Florida. Debbie and I have been very fortunate to have been a part of such a strong community with people dedicated to furthering the quality of life in virtually every aspect of Southport and its environs.

Best wishes to you all and good luck in all of your endeavors. We will miss you but look forward to seeing you when we travel back to this wonderful place.

Don Parker
President

SHS Upcoming Events



- [Memorial Brick Orders](#), October 1st – December 31, 2019
- [Second Tuesday Talk](#) with Rick Pukenas "*Robert Ruark, the Man and the Myth*", October 8th @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am, Indian Trail Meeting Hall
- [Living Voices of the Past.](#) October 26th, @2pm – 4 pm, Old Smithville Burying Ground, Corner of Rhett and Nash St.
- [Southport History Course](#) with Liz Fuller, *Challenges in 20th Century History*, Indian Trail Meeting Hall, Tuesdays, Oct. 29th – Nov 19th @1-3:30 pm Registration Closed.
- [Halloween at the Old Jail.](#) October 31st @6:00 – 8:00 pm, Corner of Rhett and Nash St, \$2 per family.
- [Second Tuesday Talk](#) with Claire McNaughton, "*Moravian Christmas Traditions*" November 12th @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am, Indian Trail Meeting Hall
- Southport Tour of Homes – Tickets Go on Sale! November 18, 2019
- [SHS General Membership Meeting](#), with Tim Terman, "*Shanty Singers*" November 21st @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Southport Community Building. Potluck Dinner.
- [Second Tuesday Talk](#) with Pat Kirkman, "*Historical Markers in Brunswick County*" December 10th @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am, Indian Trail Meeting Hall
- [30th Annual Southport Tour of Homes](#), December 14th @1 pm to 6 pm, Tickets \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

30th Annual Southport Tour of Homes!



Save the Date!

Saturday, December 14th 1-6 pm

This years' Tour of Homes promises to be as wonderful as usual!

Tickets Price: \$15 in advance - \$20 day of tour

Tickets go on sale November 18th at:

Fort Johnston Southport Museum and Visitors Center
Franklin Square Gallery
Southport/Oak Island Chamber of Commerce.

OLD BRUNSWICK COUNTY JAIL IN THE FALL

by Nancy Christianson

Fortunately, the Old Jail weathered yet another hurricane with no damage but a little rainwater seeping under the door. It has been subjected to storms since built in 1904. Of course, the air conditioning is working very well in these still very warm days.

We have 2 upcoming events: The first will be our second annual Halloween Party, or The Old Jail by Flashlight! Our inaugural event last Halloween was a huge success and we hope for the same this year. All overhead lighting will be turned off and just the display cases and stairwell will be lit. We will again entertain with a variety of ghosts, bats, spiders, etc. with at least one new surprise. We will ask for \$2 per family donation and will be open from 6PM to 8PM. Come on down and join the fun!

We will host a Red Hat group on November 6 for a private tour of the Old Jail, and the ladies always enjoy the history.

October will be the end of our weekly tours for 2019, so that we can update the displays and add new ones. We will reopen next April. As always, our docents make all the difference to the visitors who are fascinated with the Old Jail and its stories. The comments on social media always commend our story tellers!



Katherine Smith and Lisa Anderson
Photo Credit: Nancy Christianson

A poster for a Halloween Flashlight Tour at the Old Jail Museum. The top half of the poster features a black and white photograph of the Old Jail building with three cartoon ghosts overlaid. One ghost is holding a large orange 'BOO' sign, another is holding a jack-o'-lantern, and a third is holding a 'TRICK OR TREAT' sign. Below the photograph, the text reads: 'Don't miss the spooky Flashlight Tour!!', 'HALLOWEEN AT THE OLD JAIL MUSEUM', 'Thursday, October 31 • 6 to 8 PM • 318 E Nash St', and 'Entrance fee: \$2 per family'. In the bottom right corner is the logo of the Southport Historical Society, which is a circular emblem with a tree in the center and the text 'SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY' around the border.

Don't miss the spooky Flashlight Tour!!

**HALLOWEEN
AT THE OLD JAIL MUSEUM**

Thursday, October 31 • 6 to 8 PM • 318 E Nash St
Entrance fee: \$2 per family



New Addition to Our Photo Collection!

A Soldier's Life in Southport 1921 - 1923



Miss Helen Doshier and Miss Mary Renfro



12 inch mortar and crew



Pvt. Red Ferguson 1922

Recently, the SHS was contacted by Mr. Arthur "Happy" Ferguson, whose father, Pvt. Arthur "Red" Ferguson, was stationed at Ft. Caswell during the early 1920s. Fortunately for us, Pvt. Ferguson documented his time in Southport with a wide collection of photographs. We scanned the collection of nearly 100 photos and will be adding them to our online Research Room as a special collection entitled "A Soldier's Life in Southport 1921-1923". The photos will also be incorporated into upcoming presentations and exhibits. We are grateful to both generations of Fergusons for taking the photos and for providing copies to us. They will add a lot to our historical knowledge of Southport and of Ft. Caswell.

If any of you have old photos in boxes or albums, please consider sharing them with the Historical Society. Even if you are not sure who the people are or where the pictures are taken, they are still of value to us. There might be someone else who recognizes the people or place. Regardless they will give interesting glimpses into the fashions, the architecture, and the daily lives of historic Southport.

All photos will be scanned onsite for our collection. The originals will be returned to you along with a file of the scanned photos for your own use. Contact info@Southporthistoricalsociety.org for more information.

Our Thor in Our State!

By Phil Fravel

On May 21, Thor and crew were asked to be the opening volley in Our State Magazine's "Around Town: Southport". This is the second time Thor was part of media coverage-in July 2017, Thor was featured on National TV with Fox and Friends as part of their coverage of Southport's 4th of July Celebration.

After a brief talk about Thor and its history, we fired twice to the delight of the Our State crew. Take a few minutes and enjoy Our State's feature on Southport:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=547&v=uWNR23dfbb4



<http://www.southporthistoricalsociety.org>

Making Mrs. Duffy's Cakes

Story by Liz Fuller and Desiree Bridge
Photos by Desiree and Marie Bridge

Southport has long been known for its good restaurants. But before Mack's Café, before the Miller Hotel, and even before the Stuart House, there was Mrs. Duffy's eating house.

Mary Gibb Duffy was born in Beaufort in 1795. She settled in Smithville with her husband, Samuel, after the War of 1812. Samuel passed away in 1827, while working at Fort Johnston. Mrs. Duffy was left a widow with a twelve-year-old daughter to raise. She decided to open a riverfront tavern to support herself and her daughter. Her place was popular with tourists and residents, alike. Her most popular item, at least among the children of Smithville, were her cookies, known locally as "Duffy cakes".

Mrs. Duffy ran her tavern for many years. Eventually when she was in her seventies, she retired and lived with her daughter, Susan Duffy Smith, and helped raise her grandson, Thomas Jefferson Smith. Mrs. Duffy passed away in 1876, but the legacy of her Duffy Cakes lives on.



Recently we found a recipe in the Susie Carson Research Room with a note that said it was the recipe for Duffy Cakes.

½ c. butter, softened	2 c. flour
1 c. granulated sugar	½ tsp. salt
1 egg	1 tsp. soda
2 T. cream or milk	raisins
1 t. vanilla	granulated sugar

Combine butter, sugar, egg, cream or milk, and vanilla. Beat until light and fluffy. Combine flour, salt and soda and stir into creamed mixture, mixing well. Chill at least two hours. Roll small portions of dough at a time on lightly floured board. (Dough may be rolled thick or thin). Cut with three-inch cutters. Place a raisin in the center of each cookie and sprinkle with granulated sugar. Place on a greased cookie sheet and bake at 375 degrees about 8 minutes or until golden. Cool and store in a tightly covered tin. Makes about 4 dozen.

While this recipe is probably close to the one that Mrs. Duffy used, it does look like it's been modernized at some point in the past seventy years or so. We decided to check with **our Food Historian, Desiree Bridge**, to give us an idea of what it would have been like for Mrs. Duffy to bake her cookies back in the 1800s.

Here is what Desi had to say:

Mrs. Duffy's "Duffy Cakes" recipe most likely is a descendent of a popular Old-World cookie recipe called Jumbles. Jumbles date back to at least the Middle Ages or maybe even older than that. Many believe Jumbles to be the origins recipe for basic cookies today. Jumbles have such an interesting history that perhaps in the future an article will be written about them, but today we are going to focus on the more modern 1839 recipe for the once popular Smithville cookie



First thing to note about this recipe is the name cakes instead of cookies. Small cakes were the common term for cookies up until more modern times, though sometimes you could see both words being used to describe thin flat cakes. The word cookie is believed to originate with the Dutch word *koekje* which means "little cake". Later, at least in America, the word cookie would replace small cakes in cookbooks and become more popular in our language. For this article I will stick with the more familiar term cookie when discussing the recipe.

For a baker like Mrs. Duffy assembling your ingredients would have been a bit different compared to today where most of our ingredients are already processed to a point where we can just add them into our mixer and begin with little effort. Back in 1839 you would have to pull out your mortar and pestle (every household had at least one), to crush up your sugar which you often bought in a hard cone shape or loaf form and your salt, which would have been quite coarse. Spices were also crushed in the mortar and pestle since you would not purchase them pre-ground like today.

Your butter most likely would be heavily salted to preserve it, so bakers would have to "wash" the butter in cold water to remove some of the salt to make it more palatable, hence one reason salt is omitted from early recipes if butter was included.



As for the vanilla and baking soda, these are both modern add-ins to this recipe. Vanilla was not used much if ever in baking around 1839 due to it not being harvested commercially. In older recipes you see brandy or other types of alcohol being used in place of vanilla. The baking soda we use today is modern, but they were using chemical leavening agents in the 1830's such as Saleratus (Pre-Baking Soda), Hartshorn (Baker's Ammonia), and Potash or Pearl Ash (Pre-Baking Powder).



The measurements in this recipe would not have been cups and teaspoons. In 1839 a baker, whether professional or home, would be using a scale and weights to measure out ingredients since standardized measurements were not introduced to America till 1896 with the publication of Frannie Merritt Farmer's cookbook, *Boston Cooking-School Cookbook*.

Not knowing what type of kitchen Mrs. Duffy was using we must speculate a bit on how she would have baked. She could have used a bake kettle, often called a Dutch oven, which stood on three legs and had an indented lid so you could pile hot coals on top and underneath to heat it up to the temperature needed. The cookies were then placed in the bottom of the floured pot to bake.

She could have had a standard brick wood-fired oven. At the end of a baking day, as the oven cooled down, she could have placed tin trays of cookies in to bake. This was a common practice so as to not waste the use of an already heated oven. The first cast-iron stoves used for cooking were invented by the 1800s but are not a common item listed in American household inventories of

the 1830s, so whether Mrs. Duffy had one is hard to know. Most likely she used the oven because people did

not remodel or upgrade their appliances as quickly as we tend to today and many were fearful of the newer devices that were being invented.

Now, on to what the cookies are like. Following Mrs. Duffy's recipe, I mixed the ingredients in my standard Kitchen-Aid mixer. The dough came together quickly but is a very soft dough, so you do need to follow the instructions for chilling prior to rolling out. To roll out the dough, portion out small pieces and work quickly because it will soften and try to melt into your surface. If you are worried about the cookies not holding up in the oven, then chill for 5 minutes or more in your refrigerator like I did, then bake in a pre-heated 375-degree oven. Rotate halfway through to evenly bake them up. Bake no more than nine minutes.

Once baked and cooled these cookies taste like a sugar cookie. By the 1800s you are starting to see the development of cookie recipes that we are familiar with today. A bit drier in texture and not as sweet as modern sugar cookies but still tasty!

Editors note: If you do decide to include Duffy Cakes in your Holiday cooking, we'd love to hear how they turned out for you! Please send us an email (and pictures!) at info@southporthistoricalsociety.org

Don't Miss Southport's 10th Annual Wooden Boat Show!

At September's General Membership Meeting we celebrated the upcoming 10th anniversary of Southport's Wooden Boat Show. Our program, organized by Becky Felton of the Southport Wooden Boat Show, featured a short documentary video about the history of the Menhaden industry in the Cape Fear region beginning in the 1900s. The video featured Charles "Pete" Joyner a Southport native who worked on "pogie" boats from the age of 17 until his retirement at age 70.



We also had a panel of speakers that included:

- Pete Joyner (now 97!) who spent 53 years working on pogie boats.
- Col. Willie Gore, who grew up around the pogie boats. His father, Eugene Gore, was Captain for many years in Louisiana, Mississippi, and other locations and finally in Southport in early the early 1960s;
- Trudy Young, whose grandfather was Charles Gause who ran a fish factory in Southport in the 1920s and early 30s. Trudy told us it was the predecessor to Brunswick Navigation which later became Standard Products, located at the end of Fish Factory Road.
- Don Sellers, who grew up around the fish factory. His parents worked there, and he flew as a spotter pilot for Standard Products in the 1970s.
- Kenny Hall, who served as Mate on many boats for many captains up and down the coast and on the Gulf. A Southport native, Kenny retired from the industry.

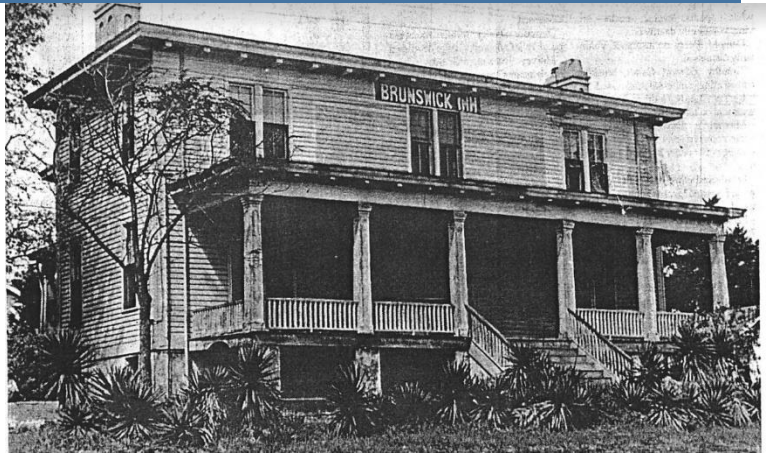
The audience was very animated and seemed to enjoy everyone. They asked lots of pertinent, pointed questions and appreciated the fact that the panel was a nice mix of experience and perspective.

Click [here](#) for more information on Southport's Wooden Boat Show Saturday, November 2, 2019

The Truth Behind Southport's Own Ghost Story

by Liz Fuller

If you spend much time around Southport, you are sure to hear the story of "Tony the Friendly Ghost" who is said to be a longtime inhabitant of the Brunswick Inn on Bay St. Over the years there have been reports of faint harp music being played at night (Tony was a harpist) and of hairbrushes, jewelry and other small items being moved, and of open windows being slammed shut.



Old Brunswick Inn Photo Courtesy of State Port Pilot

It appears that in the afterlife, Tony is a bit of a prankster. Or, perhaps he just has some definite ideas about housekeeping.

Depending on who you talk to, you'll hear different versions of what happened to Tony.

Most agree he went out for a sail in the Cape Fear one evening in good weather. Some say he was with other guests, some that he was with his brothers. Most mention his wife and child whom he kissed farewell before leaving. Some say that the name of his ship was the *Passport* while others don't mention a name at all. All say that Tony was the only one on the boat to have drowned.

The prevailing sentiment was that young Tony was too much in love – with his wife, his child, his music, and with life itself, to let it all go so soon. Instead he lingers at the old Inn, playing his music and reliving his happiest days.

So, what really happened?

We, at the Southport Historical Society, don't claim to be ghostbusters, but occasionally we are myth busters. We thought it would be interesting to get to the bottom of the story of Tony the ghost. Did Tony really exist? If so, who was he? And, what actually happened to him?

We were also curious to see how accurately the story had been passed down from generation to generation for 140 years.

With a little bit of digging, we found several news articles about Tony and his ill-fated sailing adventure. Surprisingly, even after all these years, many of the details that have been passed down, were true.

Tony did indeed exist. He was a harpist. He was employed at the Brunswick Inn. He did have a wife and child. He did set out for an evening sail on a fine summer evening. And tragically, the boat did capsize and sink within sight of the Inn.

What's been forgotten with time are the other passengers who were with Tony on the small boat – a Captain Garrason, formerly of the steamship *D. Murchison*, and an African American waiter, Ben Murray, who worked at the Inn. Captain Garrason survived the event. Sadly, Mr. Murray did not.

You can read the original newspaper articles on the next page.

If you'd like to read more ghost stories about Wilmington and the Cape Fear area, try [Haunted Wilmington and the Cape Fear Coast](#) by Brooks Newton Priek. And if you decide to research any of the historical facts behind the stories, be sure to let us know!! info@southporthistoricalsociety.org

From the Raleigh News and Observer, Aug 25, 1882

A Pleasure Boat Capsized in Smithville -
Two of its Occupants Drowned

A telegram from the signal service observer at Smithville, received last night, gives intelligence of a sad accident which occurred at that place yesterday evening, shortly after 6 o'clock. Capt. A. Garrason, of Fayetteville, Tony Caseletti, an Italian musician of this city, one of the band of harpers engaged at the Hotel Brunswick, and Ben Murray, a colored waiter employed at the same hotel, were enjoying a sail on the river, and when at a point nearly opposite the hotel and but a short distance from the shore, the boat, from some cause unknown as of this writing, upset and sunk. Of its occupants, Tony Caseletti, the Italian, and Ben Murray, the colored waiter, were drowned, while Cpt Garrison was saved with difficulty. The sunken sailboat was a small one used frequently by pleasure parties at Smithville, and is said to have been ballasted with iron. The bodies of the drowned men had not been recovered at last accounts.

And this from the Wilmington Weekly Star, Sept. 1, 1882

THE SMITHVILLE DROWNING:
Further Particulars of the Sad Affair -
The Bodies not Recovered.

Capt. A. Garrason, formerly the popular commander of the steamer, *D. Murchison*, but now a merchant of Fayetteville, made such a narrow escape from drowning on Wednesday evening last, off Smithville, arrived here on the steamer *Passport* yesterday afternoon and was gladly welcomed, and cordially congratulated by his numerous friends on his escape.

We learn that the bodies of the unfortunate Italian Caseletta, and Murray, the colored waiter of the Hotel Brunswick, who were drowned, had not been recovered up to the time the *Passport* left Smithville yesterday afternoon, and, some think, as there was a strong ebb tide at the time, that they drifted out to sea with the current. The boat was recovered yesterday, and was found at the very spot where she went down. She had sunk straight to the bottom and was found keel down, her sails all set and her sheets made fast.

Toney Caseletta, the Italian harper, was only about 20 or 21 years of age, and leaves a wife in this city. and one child.

Capt. Garrason, when rescued, was unconscious, and it was at first thought that he had shared the fate of his companions, but was finally resuscitated.

The only cause assigned for the accident is given by Capt. Garrason, who says there was some deficiency in the arrangements for letting go the sheets, and when the boat capsized the heavy iron ballast immediately sunk her. Later-

A dispatch received through the Signal office last night states that the body of Toney Caseletta rose to the surface near the wharf of the steamer *Blanche* yesterday afternoon, and was at once seen and secured. The body of the unfortunate colored boy, Ben Murray, had not been recovered late last night.

Create Your Own Memorial!
Support the Southport Historical Society
and Help Preserve our Rich History

The Southport Historical Society, with the support of the City of Southport, has reopened orders for the popular Memorial Brick Program. Memorial bricks may be purchased in memory or recognition of a person, organization, or event of personal significance. [October 1 through December 31st, place your order here.](http://www.southporthistoricalsociety.org)

Behind the Scenes: Cemetery Care

Story and Photos by Charles Christianson

Work in Smithville Burying Ground on Monday 05/06/19

There were 3 of us who worked on that day. Fred Walters, Doug Donaldson, and myself. We were joined by Musette Steck who wondered what kind of a device we had to lift the large monuments. The main theme for these monuments is "fix them".

Sergeant Woodlock Monument

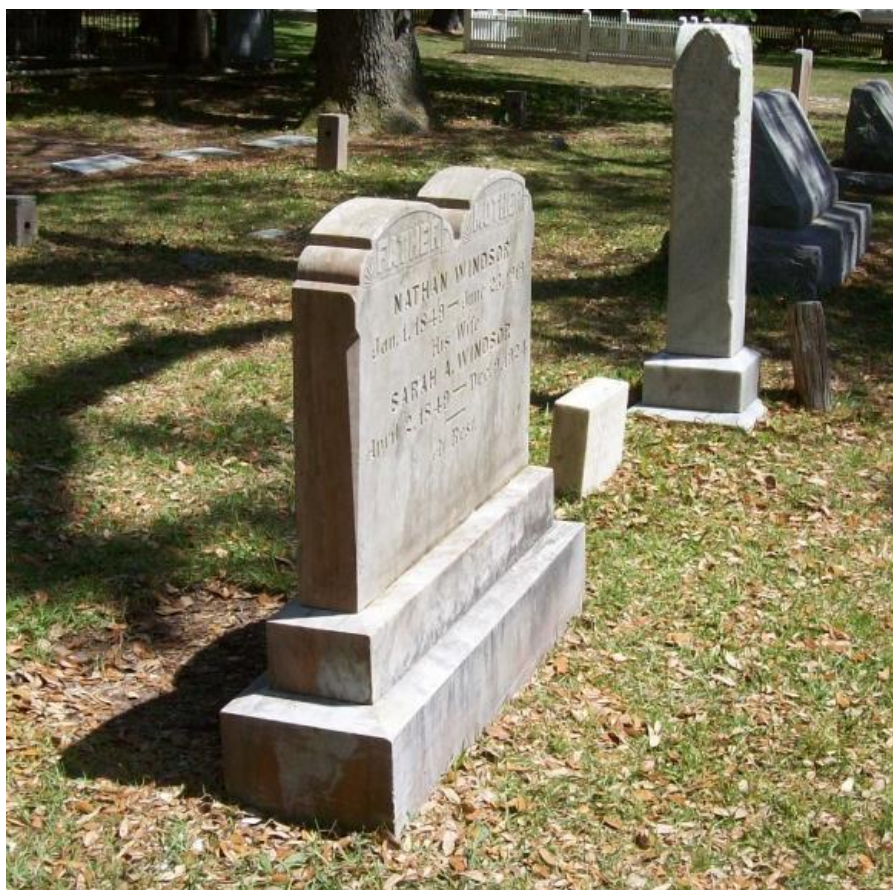


<== white marble is the base



The Sergeant Woodlock monument was glued in February of 2018. However, sometime in May of 2018, it was broken again and was leaned back on the tree (again, like it was for about 30 years). I believe Sergeant's monument is one of those in the cemetery that has been broken for a long time since it had the normal junk vines growing on it when we repaired it in 2018. This time we cut off the 2018 epoxy (and broken stone), reapplied the epoxy and added a cement foundation (5 inches by 12 inches by 24 inches) around it. This grave's construction was to cement the monument into the top of the crypt. When the monument was broken, the bottom part became the base, and top of it became the monument. Since the base is cemented to the top of the crypt, that base will not come up for repair, and that base is leaned toward the foot of the grave; when we glued the monument on it; the monument is not vertical: it leans in same direction of the base. We hope that new cement foundation will protect the break between the base and the monument so it will last a little longer this time.

Nathan and Sarah Windsor Monument



foundation's top), and to carefully place the monument onto the stone foundation. Estimated weight of the Windsor monument is about 400 pounds.

The Nathan and Sarah Windsor monument was lying flat on the ground next to its stone foundation. It was knocked over by a tree part falling on it in the 2018 cemetery cleanup of the Hurricane Florence. This was not something that has been sitting for 20 plus years as most of the other cemetery monuments. However, it seemed that the City was not in a hurry to reset it. A large monument hoist was created by C. Christianson using the knowledge he gained from a Jon Appell class offered by the Wilmington Historical Society. We used some iron rods to get under the monument so that we could place a strap under it and attached the strap to the hoist. The hoist then allowed us to lift the monument, clean under the monument, place the monument on its stone foundation, place epoxy on the monument bottom (and the

Elmer Spencer Monument

The Elmer Spencer monument was laying against a pile of rubble. The monument was out of its stone foundation and was leaning against that foundation. The dogwood tree behind the stone foundation's brick base had grown so much that it had broken the bricks apart and the bricks were in disarray around the monument. With discussion, we created a new concrete foundation that is 18 inches front to back, 21 inches side to side and 5 inches deep and 6 inches from the dogwood tree. We then moved the stone foundation onto the new cement foundation and glued the monument into its stone foundation. The stone foundation is also broken in that its front side is half there, but the epoxy glue is everywhere else, and it is holding. We then placed the old bricks back onto the cement foundation for protection of the stone foundation. The old bricks do not do well as to holding together. They are very easily broken and are turning mushy. Maybe next year we will cement new bricks to protect the cement foundation.

Addie Adkins Monument



The Addie Adkins monument has been lying flat on the ground ever since I have been working in the cemetery. I believe the monument has been down for more than 30 years. The Addie Adkins monument has a sister monument of Minnie Adkins, the first wife of J. J. Adkins (Addie was the second wife according to the death date). The monuments are of the same size and almost same design. However, when I first came to realize that the Addie monument could be repaired, there was a red cedar growing in front of the Minnie monument through the stone/brick foundation that would eventually push the Minnie monument over. So, before we could repair the Addie monument, we needed to remove that cedar. Since we can take small dead trees out of the cemetery, I tried several methods to kill that cedar naturally (did not want to use a commercial killer as it might damage the monument). Methods including skinning the bark around the base, copper nails, etc. Finally, I really skinned it. It died. I was able to take that tree down without damage to other items in the cemetery.



As you can see, we used the large monument hoist again. However, we had to clean out the monument stone foundation's keyhole so the monument's key would sit into the foundation's keyhole. That foundation hole was under where the monument had been laying and that covered broken monument pieces. Fortunately, when we lifted it, we found most of the parts of the monument's key along with some monument bottom parts. However, the pieces were like a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle, they had to be placed into the correct formation, so they became the monument's key and chips off the monument bottom. That puzzle took a while to figure out where the pieces had to go. Once we figured it out, then we had to figure which pieces could be epoxied before the

monument could be set down. When we got some of the pieces glued with epoxy it became obvious that the foundation's keyhole was too deep for the monument's key. Since we had some monument touch up cement (dated 2005) in the Old Jail, we used that to fill the foundation' keyhole to push up the broken pieces to meet with the monument. It worked. The monument was then glued and

lowered. It looked good. We then tied the monument to the hoist to keep the monument from moving overnight so the glue and cement could set.

Conclusion:

All this work took about 6 hours of time, less a lunch break, the first day. It took about 3 hours on the second day to remove the cement foundation forms, and the large monument hoist with the holding ropes. We worked hard and were blessed with a cooler day and a good wind. We all learned some more about monument repair.

Work in John N. Smith Cemetery on Friday 04/12/19.

There were 4 of us who worked that day. Fred Walters, Doug Donaldson, Charles Burdick (from Mint Hill (near Charlotte, N.C.)), and myself. We were joined by Eddie Davis from the John N. Smith cemetery. I had been out previously and chosen the stones that I wanted to work as to the main theme of "get the stones off the ground, so the mowers don't run over them".

John Davis Stone



The John Davis stone was lying flat on the ground parallel to the center road right of another stone laying perpendicular to road with the name of Sallie Reeves. To the left of the Sallie Reeves stone was a metal post in the ground that indicated a burial site was beneath. We could not find a base for the John Davis stone nearby, but there was one in front of the metal post. We measured that stone base in front of the metal post and determined that the base width was better suited with the John Davis stone, and the top of the base break seemed to work with the Davis stone bottom break. So, we dug the base up, straightened it, and glued the John Davis stone to the base. The stone was then lightly cleaned with the D-2 cleaner.

Thomas Davis Stone



The Thomas Davis stone was lying flat on the ground perpendicular to the center road on right side of the John Davis stone. There seemed to be a base next to it with a large chip of marble. We dug up the base, straightened it and glued the top to the base adding the large chip. It all seemed to fit. The stone was then lightly cleaned with the D-2 cleaner.

Sallie Reaves Stone



The Sallie Reaves stone was lying flat on the ground perpendicular to the center road on the left side of the John Davis stone. It had a break through its middle. We could not find a base for it in the ground, so we glued the stone together where the break was, declared that bottom part was the base, and placed the whole stone into the ground between the John Davis stone and the Thomas Davis stone. That was the area where the stone was laid down, and normally the stones don't stray too far from

their original location. The stone was then lightly cleaned with the D-2 cleaner.

Nancy Davis Stone



The Nancy Davis stone was lying flat on the ground perpendicular to the center road on right side of the Thomas Davis. Again, we dug up the base, straightened it and glued the top to the base. The stone was then lightly cleaned with the D-2 cleaner.

William Gordon Stone



The William J Gordon military stone appeared to have never been placed into the ground. It was lying flat next to an oak tree. We dug a hole deep enough to bury enough of so it would not fall over. We placed the two original seashells at its base. The stone was then lightly cleaned with the D-2 cleaner. The stains from being on the ground and under an oak tree seems to have gone fairly far into the stone.

Ira Swain Stone



The Ira Swain head stone was leaning against another head stone (Suggs) waiting to be broken further. Doing research, we determined that the head stone had broken off of its foundation right at head stone's foundation "key" area. The foundation could be found (right next to the road), and the rest of the "key" was in the base. However, we could not move the foundation, and we could not get the remaining "key" out of the foundation without breaking it. It was also determined that this head stone was too tall for the small "key" area and that was the cause of the break. So, since this Swain stone was long enough, it could be placed into the ground away without losing any of its lettering. We placed it into the ground away from the Suggs stone and away from the road. It was placed next to a Catherine Swain stone and faced it the same way as the Catherine Swain stone. Needless to say, a hole was dug, the Ira Swain stone placed and straightened. It seemed clean enough as it was.

Hardie Lewis Stone



The Hardie Lewis stone was flat on the ground perpendicular to the center road. There was a small amount of marble stones pieces nearby that did not belong there (someone had placed them there for some reason). Doing research with a probe, we determined that there was a brick foundation under the marble pieces. Doing measurements, it was determined that the Hardie Lewis stone would fit into a slot at the center of the brick foundation. The youngest person of the group used a large hammer and chisel and broke open the center slot that was filled with old mortar cement. They then dug down about 14 inches into the ground underneath, so that the stone could be placed into the old foundation and held. There seemed to be enough stone to do that. The stone was then placed into the foundation slot and straightened with pebbles under it.

There are other Lewis stones nearby, so it seemed to be in the correct area.

James Lewis Stone

The James Lewis stone was leaning highly toward its front toward the center road. The reason for the leaning was that the oak tree behind it had grown and had pushed the stone's foundation at an angle (note other stones around it). We dug up the foundation, leveled the area with pebbles, and replaced the foundation with its stone.



The Group Less Charles Burdick (*Well someone had to take the picture.*)



It was a beautiful day to be working in the John N. Smith cemetery. The temperature was about 70 degrees, and there was a good wind to keep the bugs down. Fred and Doug both wanted to learn how to mend cemetery stones. Charles likes to come to Southport with his wife, to help in the different cemeteries. He has helped us in getting the second cross up in the Old Burying Ground. He also met me at the stone repair clinic in Wilmington about 2 years ago. He has about 15 years in repair of stones or as he calls them, monuments.

The work above was accomplished in about 3.5 hours of time. We worked hard.

*Many thanks to Charles and all the men who worked on the cemeteries. It looks like we will be in fine shape for this year's **Living Voices of the Past!** Hope you can join us and appreciate first hand all of their hard work!!*

Saturday Oct. 26, 2 – 4 pm
Old Smithville Burying Ground



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The Southport Historical Society, with the support of the City of Southport, has reopened orders for the popular Memorial Brick Program. Memorial bricks may be purchased in memory or recognition of a person, organization, or event of personal significance. [October 1 through December 31st, place your order here.](#)

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