

southport historical society

Whittler's Bench Winter 2020



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Bob's Briefing



Happy New Year!

First, let me thank all of you who have given me encouragement in my role as the Society's acting president. I'd also like to thank the current Board members for their patience and helpfulness. I can also report that Don and Debbie Parker, while they miss all of their Southport friends, are happily getting settled in their new Florida home.

We all know that the Society owes its past and continuing success to the dedicated volunteers who make our programs and activities successful. Case in point is the eighty volunteers who last month delivered another fantastic Christmas Home Tour event. Many thanks to each of them and to all of our other dedicated volunteers.

The Society's annual business meeting will be held on February 6th at the Community Building. The meeting starts with a 12:00 Noon luncheon of soup and sandwiches provided by the members of the Board of Directors. The luncheon will be followed by a review of the status of the Society's activities and events.

Following the review there will be an election of officers and board members. In addition to President Don Parker, Vice-President Pat Kirkman and Secretary Cindy Sellers are concluding their terms. Also, Board member Ken Morris is stepping down. Please join me in thanking these fine folks for their service to the Southport Historical Society.

At its January 23rd meeting, the Board will consider the appointment of Doug Donaldson to fill the remaining year of Ken Morris's term and Travis Gilbert to fill the currently vacant ninth position on the Board. In addition, the Board will vote to determine Phil Fravel's reappointment as the Society's treasurer.

The following individuals have been nominated to the Board for terms beginning in 2020 and will be voted upon at the February 6th Annual Business Meeting:

Bob Surridge, President	Liz Fuller, Vice President	Bob Hagerman, Secretary
Donnie Joyner, Member	Desiree Bridge, Member	Mary Ellen Poole, Member

To complete the Board roster, Linda DeTorres, who serves as the chair of the Annual Home Tour Committee, will be continuing in the second year of her three-year term.

As we move forward into 2020, I would like to borrow a phrase from Don Parker and note that: *"The state of the Society is great!"* - Bob Surridge, Acting President

SHS Upcoming Events

- [Membership Dues](#) are due in January. Pay online or by mail. Thank you for your support!
- [Second Tuesday Talk](#) with John Keiffer, "*Brunswick Co. Courthouse and City Hall*", January 14th @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am, Indian Trail Meeting Hall, No Registration, Open to All
- [SHS Book Discussion and museum tour](#). *Joshua's Dream*. January 14th, 1:30 pm. Closed event. Contact SHS to arrange a discussion with your book club.
- [SHS General Membership Meeting](#), Business Meeting, February 6th @ noon, Southport Community Building. Lunch provided. No Registration, Open to All
- [Vintage Ladies Mtg](#) with Liz Fuller, "*Southport's Historical Women*", Feb. 7th, 9:45 am – noon, St James Community Center, Registration Limited, Open to Vintage Ladies Members
- [Black History Symposium](#) with Liz Fuller, "*Wilmington Rebellion and the Loss of African American Voting Rights in North Carolina*", Feb. 8th, Southport Community Center, No Registration, Open to All
- [Second Tuesday Talk](#) with Charles Pollock, "*History of St. Philip's Episcopal Church*" February 11th @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am, Indian Trail Meeting Hall, No Registration, Open to All
- [Southport History Talk](#) with Bob Surridge, "*Hominy Muffins and Oyster Pie*", Feb. 11th, The Brunswick Center at Southport, Registration Required
- [Southport History Course](#) with Liz Fuller, *Challenges in 20th Century History*, Indian Trail Meeting Hall, Tuesdays, Mar. 3rd – Mar. 24th @1-3:30 pm, Registration Required, Open to All
- [Southport History Course](#) with Liz Fuller, *Challenges in 20th Century History*, The Brunswick Center at Southport, Thursdays, Mar. 5th – Mar. 26th @1-3:30 pm, Registration Required, Open to All
- [SHS General Membership Meeting](#), with Dr. Chris Fonville, "*Southport and the Fall of Ft. Fisher*" March 26th @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Southport Community Building. Potluck Dinner. No Registration, Open to All
- [Second Tuesday Talk](#) with Donnie Joyner, "*History of BCT Marching Band*" December 10th @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am, Indian Trail Meeting Hall, No Registration, Open to All

Scholarship Opportunity by Ken Morris

Applications are now being accepted for the **\$2000 Susan Sellers Carson Scholarship** to be granted in 2020.

Application forms and instructions are available on the Southport Historical Society website, the scholarship counsellor's office at South Brunswick High School (Sharon Herring), or by emailing kmorris@ec.rr.com.

Applicants are required to submit a minimum 900-word essay on either of two topics. The topics this year are: "**An Uncommon Hero – Abraham Galloway**" or "**Cape Fear River Pilots**".



Susie Sellers Carson

Applications must be postmarked or received by April 17, 2020.

Seniors at South Brunswick High School who have been accepted at any accredited two- or four-year college or university are eligible to apply.

\$1000 will be paid directly to the university in each of the student's first two years upon verification of full-time enrollment.

The recipient of the Susan Sellers Carson scholarship will be chosen based on their efforts in writing a comprehensive, insightful, and original essay about one of the topics listed above.



Photo Credit: Zeb Starnes (more photos are available on our [facebook](#) page!)

Christmas Tour of Homes by Phil Fravel

It was another good year for Southport Historical Society's Christmas Tour of Homes, the 30th year of this event and 19th year of our sponsorship. Our event was part of the City of Southport's Winterfest Festival and was held on December 14, 2019. We were very fortunate to have twelve locations for the tour and we would like to thank each of the homeowners.

Thanks to the generosity of the homeowners, and the Home Tour Committee, once again our largest fundraiser was a great success. 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 improvements to the Fort Johnston museum, fund a scholarship at South Brunswick High School and continue to enhance the Susie Carson Research Room at the Fort Johnston museum. An incredible amount of time and effort by the Home Tour Committee Members, the Homeowners, and Docents go into organizing the Tour. The Home Tour committee greatly appreciates the interest and support provided by the Members, Homeowners, and Docents.

Next year's tour will be held on Saturday December 12, 2020. 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 looking for Homes for the Tour**, so if you are willing to have your home on the 2020 tour please contact the Society from our Web Site, <http://www.southporthistoricalsociety.org/> or via email at info@southporthistoricalsociety.org.

A Smithville Christmas by Mike Royal

"This "localized" Night Before Christmas poem was a creation that popped in my head as I wanted to write a Christmas piece for my grandchildren. I envisioned a story/poem that would be a fun adaptation for children and yet implement many of the landmarks and touches of my childhood Southport, knowing that my grandchildren will never know the Southport I knew as a child.

Only now as a man looking back did I discover how great it all was. The good and the bad from the past, now in the golden light of an antique memory, become all GOOD! I hope that all children and any others who are touched by that story will share it and share it many times in the future. Maybe it could even find a place with all the Christmas decorations and be displayed every year. Wouldn't that be great!" - Mike

'Twas the night before Christmas and all down the docks
The Skippers were checking and doubling their knots
When all was secure and their boats put to bed
They were ready for family, their boots soon to shed

The weather was nice with just a slight chill
And all was at peace in the town of Smithville
But during the night as Old Baldy did scan
An object was spotted in the light as it ran

It seemed so impossible as they came into view
But there in the channel eight tiny tugs cruised
They motored and hummed with their engines full steam
As they pulled a big barge of toys and dreams

The buoys all parted and blinked as they passed
Some red and some green, as they gave a bright flash
The Tugs arched around Jaybird and pointed toward land
They began to make noise like a full brass band

The people were all sleeping in Smithville that night
And awoke to the horns now blasting delight
The sound was familiar as a carol was played
It was merry, it was soothing, as they listened and swayed

There! a brightly lit cedar, a legend of lore
Like a beacon it guided them straight to the shore
They sailed to the pier at the foot of old Howe
Where a Jolly little man stood straight on the bow

His face was a circle of smoke from his pipe
And it glowed with the spray from a rough sea swipe
The town's people gathered at the river to gaze
As the little Jolly Pilot eased the barge into place

He began calling out to his crew on the barge
Commanding such order, they know who's in charge
Gifts were given to one and to all
For the children of Smithville some big and some small
(continued next page)

A present each got until there were none
To his crew he exclaimed "that's a job well done"
With the help of town folk they cast off with a cheer
And he piloted the barge back down the Cape Fear

With his task now completed and smiles all around
He sailed the barge out and straight for the sound
We heard the pilot shout as they went out of sight
"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night"
- Michael Royal, 2011

Editor's Note: Check out the picture of a young Mike Royal in a Little League Lineup on the next page. He's top row, second from the right!



Photo Credit: Vicki Burton

The danger lies in forgetting what we had.

- Adrienne Rich

What Southport Means to Me... by Steve Gainey

It means bicycling around town all day long and never seeing a stranger. Playing pool at Mrs. Furpless' arcade (*Was there ever a woman any kinder to the youth in her community?*) or redeeming soda bottle deposits at Harrelson's for candy and more cold drinks. It means shopping at the Army-Navy Surplus next to the Creech's or, for everyday clothing items, at Mrs. Leggett's store. (*what a beautiful soul she was*)



1st Row, L-to-R: Coach Gene Russ, Rusty Russ (batboy), Earl Elwood, Roger Harrington, Tim Stiller, Asst. Coach Billy Drew; 2nd Row: Rusty Drew, Alan Parker, Larry Brown, Ronnie Drew; 3rd Row: Bonner (Skip) Stiller, Sammy Faulk, Charles Drew, Wayne Harrington; 4th Row: Steve Gainey (author), Lionel Caroon, Mike Royal, Richard Dowling

It means pedaling past Potlicker, dead asleep beneath what at that time was the only stoplight in Brunswick County. Then seeing him that evening at Taylor Field while playing Little League baseball and breathing a sigh of relief that he survived yet another Howe & Moore St. nap.

It means swimming the Old Yacht Basin to wash off fish scales, blood & guts so I could spend some of the cash I just earned eating at Louis Dixon's while listening to "Green Tambourine" & "Dance to the Music" on the jukebox. It means shark fishing off of Capt. Dick Skipper's dock (American Fish Co. today) and looking across to Ft. Caswell, wondering how many pretty girls I might meet at the Canteen that night after sneaking onto the grounds of the Baptist Assembly. Or experiencing Christmas Eve-like excitement as that year's honorary 4th of July naval vessel arrived and made anchor in the river.

With the 4th upon us so was the Jaycees' donkey ballgame (*my favorite event*), the street dance, a newly

crowned queen, raffle tickets to buy (*and then sell a few years later*), the parade & fireworks. It means seeing Jo Jo Fullwood push his lawn mower along the roadside to his next job. (*Jo Jo may have been the hardest working man I ever met.*) It means seeing the latest Elvis movie at the Amuzu then walking past the old cemetery on my way home. (*Or did I run past?*) It means playing in the Bonnett's Creek culvert that still runs under Moore St., exploring the banks of the Cape Fear from Willis' dock to the ferry landing, camping at Bald Head, propping for flounder on the sand flats behind Battery Island with Hoyle, Tommy and Mike, riding bikes to Robin's Nest to look at Mr. Harrelson's peacocks & bobcat, playing hide and seek on Big Hill at Long Beach, fishing the Ella, the Jaybird Shoals and BHI Point in a 18' Simmons Sea Skiff. Knowing folk with names like Cash, Basil, Gumstump, Gunk, Butterball, Tebo, Gaboon, Puddinhead. All of whom, I'm certain, loved Oliver's deluxe cheeseburger as much as I did. Truly, Ed's deluxe cheeseburger was a unifying communion experience, loved and shared by everyone in Southport.

It means catching fat, really really fat, yellow-bellied spots at Caroon's crab dock when I was 12. The ones I strung onto a cotton cord and excitedly hung across the handlebars of my bike for all to see as I pedaled eastward on Moore St., headed home. Whereupon arriving I cleaned them in the back yard, by myself, and gave them to mom to prepare for our family's dinner that evening. It surely means the happiness and joy I felt as I reflected back over the events of that day and the pride and amazement that came with the realization that I had contributed to my family's welfare by doing something as simple and sublime as fishing the Cape Fear River.

I suppose it goes without saying, Southport means a lot to me!

Thor at Fort Caswell Rifle Range by Phil Fravel

On November 11, Thor travelled to the Fort Caswell Rifle Range for the Veterans Day WWI Commemoration Roll Call. At 11:00am, the time the Armistice went into effect 101 years ago, Norma Eckard, president of Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range began the program.

This year, the special guests were the family of WWI Brunswick County veteran and only POW, [Pvt Robert Bollie Stanley](#). Two grandchildren of Pvt Stanley (**Fred Stanley** and **Deborah Bolin**) began the continuation of the Roll Call for Brunswick County WWI veterans. Descendants who participated in previous commemorations returned: **Gwen Clemmons Causey** (granddaughter of [Sgt Henry Lindon Clemmons](#)) and **David Lewis** (grandson of [Lt David Elton Lewis](#)).



Photo Credit: Phyllis Wilson

Thor was fired at the end of each Roll Call reading to honor the WWI veterans.

The next scheduled reading is April 04, 2020 at 11:00am. Descendants add meaning to the ceremonies and are considered special guests. All of the work done by Friends of Ft. Caswell Rifle Range is dedicated to the families of the veterans and they are welcome to attend or call names for the Roll Call.



A word about Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range by President Norma Lee Eckard:

My husband Ron Eckard and I have been working on the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range since 2011. The rifle range is located across the street from where we live in Caswell Beach and was once the property of Fort Caswell. In fact, most of Oak Island was the property of the military.

The range is about 200 feet long and it needs repairs to the two lintels and a passageway wall. While we researched who built this piece of history, we established that it was built by Fort Caswell to train soldiers for World War I. The rifle range was added to the proposal of MdM of Durham and in December 2013 it was entered on the National Register of Historic Places. In March 2015, Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range became a 501(C)(3).

In order to inspire people to support the responsibility and care of the range we asked the public to send us photographs and stories about family members who served in WWI. We then created a WWI Wall of Honor. This is shown on the website.

As time grew closer to the WWI Centennial Commemoration, we knew that research was needed to identify Brunswick County men and women who served in the war. Our daughter, Amy, already had our website up and running so she dedicated the month of October 2017 to the research of military records to accumulate a list of Brunswick County military. Our current total is 717 men and one female nurse from Southport who served in WWI from our county.

We're excited to announce that an historical book is in the works. Our non-profit wanted the book completed in November 2018. Now we plan to publish within the year 2020. We are applying to foundations for support to publish. If possible the books will be placed in our libraries, high schools, middle schools, early college and Brunswick Community College as reference material for students and the public.

Our planned title is "BRUNSWICK COUNTY IN THE GREAT WAR: Preserving the Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the Legacies of the Men and Women Who Served."

Editor's Note: The article below is reprinted with permission from the Friends of the Fort Caswell Rifle Range website. It was researched and written by Amy Eckerd. Visit the site to read lots more about the Rifle Range and stories of the Brunswick County men and women who served in World War One and to learn how you can help honor Brunswick County WW1 vets.



WWI Profile: William James Gordon 1891-1930

William James Gordon

Southport, Brunswick County, NC

US Army

Private, First Class

Served:

March 29, 1918 – April 9, 1919

Overseas:

June 10, 1918 – February 11, 1919

Wounded: November 4, 1918

Gunshot wound

Photo source: 92ndinfantry.org.

William James Gordon was born May 29, 1891, in Southport, Brunswick County, NC, the son of Franklin H. Gordon (1855-1939), a public-school teacher (**and first black educator in Brunswick County**), and Nannie Gordon (1860-1943). His father is [buried in](#) John N. Smith Cemetery in Southport. His father's headstone shows William had two siblings, Cenelius and Frank. The locations of his mother's and brothers' gravesites are unknown.

William [was married](#) on June 4, 1912, in Southport to Evelyn Frink (1891-1957). His 1917 [WWI Draft Registration](#) shows he was married with a 4 year old son. He is listed as a laborer working in Philadelphia. [His son](#), William James Gordon, Jr. (1913-2004) had a [very distinguished career in education](#) like his grandfather, [served his country](#) like his father, and [is buried](#) in Lebanon National Cemetery in Kentucky.

William was honored with a position in the 365th Infantry, 92nd Division, along with [William Frederick Brooks](#), who sadly had died of meningitis days after the infantry left for France, and [Robert Bollie Stanley](#), all from Brunswick County.



Before leaving for France, the 92nd Division chose their insignia and nickname. The 92nd was nicknamed the "[Buffalo Soldiers](#)" in honor of African American troops who served in the American West after the Civil War. The patch is shown above.

Company H of the 365th Infantry, which included Pvt Gordon and Pvt Stanley, embarked at Hoboken, NJ, on June 10, 1918, and reached Brest, France, on the 19th day of June 1918. The camp was established at Bourbonne-les-Bains, a small resort area in the northeast of France, about 60 miles from the front. They immediately began an [eight week period of intensive training](#) in offensive and defensive tactics.

On July 6, 1918 **Pvt. Gordon was promoted** to Private First Class.

The soldiers of the 92nd and the 93rd infantry divisions were the first Americans to [fight in France](#).

The [John N Smith cemetery](#) in Southport was named by the Wilmington Foundation as [the most threatened site in the Cape Fear region](#) for 2017. The 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range is on this list as well. The Friends of the Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the Southport Historical Society support the recovery and restoration of this important cemetery.

In August, they took up positions in the St. Die sector, where they received their first contact with the enemy. They fought with honor [through many engagements](#) on the Meuse-Argonne front and [won numerous awards from the French](#).



Ssource: net.lib.byu.edu/estu/wwi/comment/scott/Stno6.htm

October 29, 1918: Pvt Robert Bollie Stanley (Pfc Gordon's fellow soldier from Brunswick County) was reported missing.
November 4, 1918: Pfc Gordon was wounded.
November 11, 1918: The armistice between the Allies and Germany was signed.



Photo source: [92nd Division WWI History](#).

This map shows the approximate location of the front lines in western Europe when the 92nd Division was deployed.

[In the 365th's final battle](#), there were 43 Killed in Action or Died of Wounds, 583 Wounded, and 32 Missing, most of whom were killed or succumbed to wounds. Of the three initial Brunswick County soldiers in the infantry, [Pvt William Frederick Brooks](#) died of disease before leaving the United States, [Pfc William James Gordon](#) was wounded, and [Pvt Robert Bollie Stanley](#) was missing.

On February 25, 1919, Pfc Gordon boarded the U.S.S. *Nansemond* with other sick and wounded soldiers. He was discharged from the Army on April 9, 1919.

William passed away in 1930 from heart disease [source: [ancestry.com](#)]. His death certificate lists a contributory cause to his death as "paralysis left side due to bullet wounds received in world war."

He was [laid to rest](#) in Smith Cemetery with his father. A military headstone [was requested](#) in 1937 and remains there today.



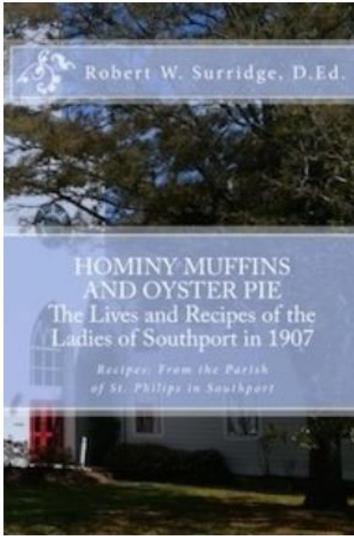
In the years following the war, the 92nd Division gained fame as records of their accomplishments slowly became known. The November 7, 1942 edition of *Baltimore Afro-American*, p 20, published this account from General John J. Pershing:

The 92nd Division has been, without a doubt, a great success. And I desire to commend both the officers and the men for the high state of discipline and the excellent morale which has existed in this command during its entire stay in France.

The 92nd Division continued their gallantry in World War II, after which segregation in the military was ended.

Most of the information gathered was from E.J. Scott, author of [The American Negro in the World War](#), Chapter XI, which quoted the work of T.T. Thompson, Historian of the Famous 92nd Division. Another excellent reference is the website <http://92ndinfantry.org/>

A Storyteller's Confession by Bob Surridge



Yes, Mom you were right, I am a storyteller. In fact, Mom, I don't just tell stories, it's worse than that...I like telling stories!

I especially like to tell stories about Southport history to an eager audience of learners. I had just such an occasion a few weeks ago when I spoke to the Winding River Vintage Ladies club. The ladies called themselves "Treasure Seekers." This lively group invited me to speak about my book, Hominy Muffins and Oyster Pie, which is about the lives of fifty-seven Southport ladies who contributed recipes to a 1907 St. Phillips Episcopal Church cookbook. The Treasure Seekers and I had a great time talking about the lives of Southport women like Jessie Stevens Taylor, who served as the Voluntary Weather Observer and Storm Warning Display Woman for over sixty years. After my talk, one of the Treasure Seekers noted that you "could have heard a pin drop" when I was telling the stories of the Southport ladies of 1907.

But, Mom, please don't think that I am unusual because there are plenty of other members and friends of the Southport Historical Society who also like to tell stories. There are so many storytellers that maybe the Society should start a Southport Storytellers club.

Editor's Note: Bob will be telling stories at the Southport Senior Center Feb. 11th. The program is free, but registration is required. Contact the Senior Center for registration and more information.

The universe is made of stories, not of atoms.

- Muriel Rukeyser

Southport History Classes



Southport Historical Society launched a new series of history classes this fall. Twenty-five students joined instructor Liz Fuller to learn more about topics in 20th Century Southport History.

The four-week session covered
 1) The African American Pursuit of Education in Southport
 2) Moonshine, Smuggling and Prohibition
 3) World Wars on the Shores of Southport and
 4) Hazel, Helene and other Horrific Hurricanes.

Classes included field trips to historic landmarks, monuments and museums in Southport.

Feedback from class members has been most enthusiastic!

Additional sessions will be held in March. For times and locations, see SHS Upcoming Events on page 2. Classes are free but size is limited. For registration or more information, contact info@southporthistoricalsociety.org.

Book Review by Bob Hagerman

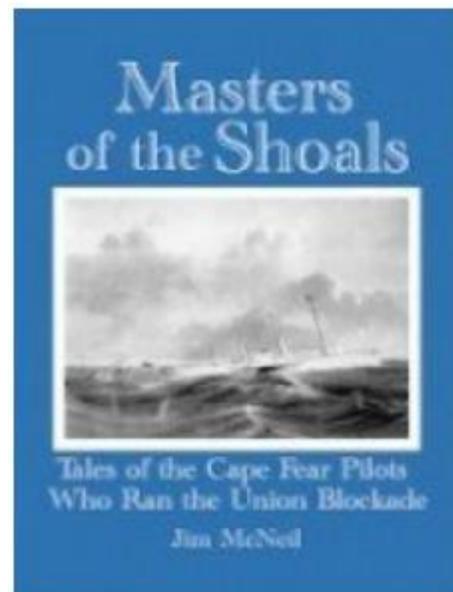
Masters of the Shoals

By
Jim McNeil

For many years, the Cape Fear River presented serious obstacles to navigation with constantly changing, treacherous shoals stretching 17 miles out to sea, and silt and sand bars protecting the entrance to the inner harbor.

For generations, the Southport area provided pilots to help ships make it in and out of the harbor and the river. Young men became licensed pilots after a long apprenticeship.

After the fall of Fort Sumter, the Union Navy began blockading Southern ports to prevent needed supplies such as cannons and other arms, ammunition, gunpowder, clothing and shoes from reaching the Confederacy. As all the other ports were shut down, Wilmington and the Cape Fear River became the only supply line for the Confederacy. This book is the exciting story of the Cape Fear pilots who ran the Union blockade. Some of these pilots are buried in the Old Burying Ground and many have families who still live in the Southport area.



The Cape Fear River was the ideal location for a blockade runner. It had two entrances, major forts protecting those entrances, sandbars and shoals and most importantly, the Cape Fear pilots. The blockade runner ships were custom-made in the UK and were smaller and faster than normal sea going ships. They depended on speed, not armament, to get through the blockade.

Outgoing blockade runners would pick a dark moonless night and try to quietly slip between the blockading ships. Incoming ships loaded with cargo would hug the coast and try to get within the protection of Fort Fisher.

There were dozens of qualified pilots and many of them became quite famous because of their dangerous runs. There was the *Kate*, the most famous packet steamer of the war piloted by Christopher Columbus Morse out of Smithville. Morse had 20 successes out of 20 attempts, but the *Kate* ended up hitting an obstruction in the Cape Fear River and sank near Bonnet's Creek in November 1862. Morse went on to pilot two more successful blockade runners the *Cornubia* (19/18) and the *Advance* (18/17).

This is a great book! Read it, you can't put it down.

"The Winds and the Sea Sing their Requiem and Shall for Ever More"

- Inscription on the Memorial to the River Pilots, Old Smithville Burying Ground.

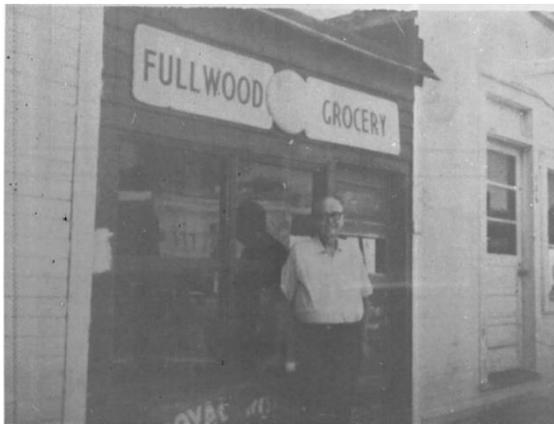
Recent Donations of Artifacts to the Society by Bob Surridge

Over the years SHS member and former Board member, Trudy Young, has donated a number of valued artifacts to the Society. Over the past few months she has been very generous with many new donations. Examples include a handmade silk World War I Memory Purse, which was carried by family members to honor the World War Service of Trudy's uncle John Eriksen. The purse is on display in the "Honor Our Veterans Exhibit at the Ft. Johnston museum. Another treasure donated by Miss Trudy is an album of 8 by 10 photos taken in the early 1920s and used by her grandfather, Charles E. Gause, to describe the operation of the Southport, Fish, Scrap and Oil plant, which he managed. Miss Trudy's daughter, Katherine Hufham also recently donated a collection of eleven charts and maps that were used by her great grandfather, Charles E. Gause.



WW1 Memory Purse donated by Trudy Young

Photo Credit: Bob Surridge



Mr. Willie Fullwood in front of his store. This storefront is on display at the Fort Johnston Southport Museum and Visitor Center. Photo Courtesy of State Port Pilot.

Visitor's Center volunteer Yvonne Scheffer recently donated two interesting items, a 1950s era Coca Cola aluminum six-pack carrier and a beautiful early 1900s Eastlake style chair. The Coca Cola carrier is now on display in the museum's Fullwood Store exhibit and the Eastlake chair is displayed in the "Life in the Garrison" exhibit.



Life in the Garrison Exhibit Photo Credit: Liz Fuller

The Fort Johnston Museum and Visitor's Center draws many

folks from the Cape Fear region.

Two of those visitors are Cheryl and Bill McKenney. Cheryl and Bill, visit often and when they visit next they will be able to see two of the items they recently donated to the Society. Their first donation was a 1920s Burnett's Marshmallow can, which they can find in the Fullwood store exhibit.

Their second donation was an early 1800s octant, which is a navigation instrument to determine latitude at sea by observing the altitude of celestial bodies. It is a beautiful in its original wooden case and the instrument is made of onyx, ivory and brass, visitors will soon be able to see it in the museum's blockade runner exhibit.



Early 1800s Octant donated by Cheryl and Bill McKenney

Photo Credit: Bob Surridge

By the way, please contact us at info@southporthistoricalsociety.org if you know how to use an octant!

Many thanks to these donors and please contact us if you are considering donating an item to the Society.

Anna T Jeanes Historic Marker by Liz Fuller

Earlier this year, we received the following email from a representative at the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office. He was thanking us for our African American Education exhibit which includes information about Anna T. Jeanes and her impact on education. SHS was pleased to have played a role in raising awareness about her life and work.

If you'd like to learn more about Anna T. Jeanes, be sure to stop by and check out our African American Education exhibit at Fort Johnston Southport Museum and Visitor Center. Also, consider taking the **Challenges in 20th Century Southport History** course in March which includes a class on African American Education in Southport. Contact info@southporthistoricalsociety.org for more information.

Subject: Jeanes School Exhibit and PHMC Historical Marker

Ms. Anderson:

I am finally getting around to writing to you about your Jeanes School exhibit at the Southport Historical Society. I was visiting my in-laws who relocated to the Southport area in September 2018 (during the week of the hurricane). On our most recent visit in February, we stopped by the historical society.

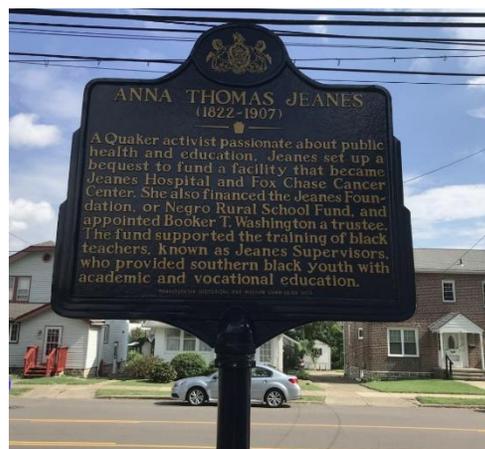
I was thrilled to see the exhibit on the Jeanes School program in the region. I work for the Pennsylvania Historical Marker program and we were in the process of reviewing a nomination for Anna T. Jeanes to recognize her for her role in education and medical philanthropy. Your exhibit confirmed the importance and impact of her role in establishing the Jeanes Supervisors program.

Attached is the press release that confirms PHMC approval for the Jeanes marker. The Panel determined that her role in the school fund is of national significance and your exhibit helped to verify that fact. Thank you for your continued work and efforts to promote local and national history. I look forward to my next visit to Southport.

Sincerely,

Scott Doyle

Scott Doyle | Preservation Incentives Division Manager
Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office



*Anna T. Jeanes' marker was installed in Philadelphia September 12, 2019
Photo Credit: Northeasttimes.com*

JANUARY

Is Membership Renewal Month

Please mail your renewal check during
the month to keep your membership
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