

Return to Jack Fairley

THE WHITTTLERS BENCH

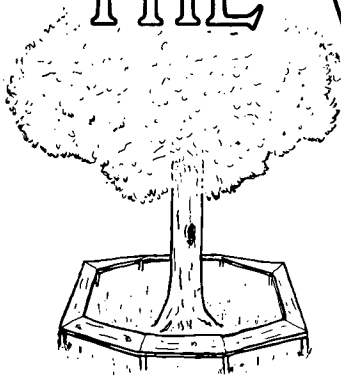
SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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FAULK TO TALK



Most of us think we're quite familiar with Brunswick Town, but if you haven't visited there the last year or so, you'll find many changes. William G. Faulk, Historic Site Manager since 1964, will describe the 1976 to 1981 site improvements at our regular quarterly meeting at the Southport-Brunswick County Library Board room at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 15, 1982; his comments will be supplemented with a slide presentation.

BOOKS

A new one to be published...

The Cemeteries of Southport (Smithville) and the Immediate Surrounding Area by Dorcas W. Schmidt is being prepared for the publisher and should be available for purchase through our Society in two or three months. The book includes names and dates from all the tombstones in the cemeteries and will be of particular interest to genealogists. Proceeds of the sale of this book will go toward the upkeep of Southport cemeteries. Members Dot Schmidt, Susan Carson and Eleanor Smith especially deserve our thanks for their work on this project.

A book that is wanted...

Barbara Madany, 6348 Briar Rose Drive, Houston, Texas, 77057, has written Susan Carson saying she'd be willing to pay a few dollars above the original purchase price for a copy of Southport and It's Environs by Bill Reaves. Please contact Ms Madany directly if you can help her.

And a book for sale...

Dr. Lawrence Lee's History of Brunswick County is still available at \$10. per copy through the Library (\$11. if ordered by mail.)

OLD JAIL ON EAST NASH STREET TO BE OPEN DURING JULY FOURTH FESTIVITIES

The Old jail served Brunswick County from 1904 to 1971 when the new one was built nearby. This building was used until 1978 when the County Courthouse was moved to Bolivia. Hours open: 10 to 4 on July 3 & 5; 1 to 4 on July 4th.

"HISTORY TIDBITS"

Seven years after the close of the War Between the States, the citizens of Smithville were still "battling" with the Federal Government.

When the Board of County Commissioners of Brunswick County (R. W. Woodside, Chairman, E. W. Taylor, M. A. Moore, and Thomas G. Drew) met at the Court House in Smithville on "the third Monday in May being the 20th day of the same, A. D. 1872" they were presented with a petition from the citizens of Smithville.

The petition stated in no uncertain terms that "certain unlawful encroachments have been made upon both public and private rights in the Town of Smithville by the Military Authorities of the United States to the great injury of the public and violation of private rights had and enjoyed by citizens of said Town for 70 years, to-wit the seizure of a certain street in said Town known as Ellis Street..." Ellis Street is the very short street just to the east of the tennis courts on the Fort Johnston reservation, running through from Moore Street to Bay Street beside the Community Building. The street now, for some unknown and uncalled for reason, has been marked by the City as "Fort Johnson Place".

The petition goes on to state that the street had been seized and fenced up and bar rooms placed in the street. The petition further states that the U. S. Government had also encroached upon a part of Moore Street by the placing of a "fence and various kinds of buildings in said street" and that the "proprietors thereof have refused to pay taxes and license according to the laws of North Carolina, shielding themselves under the aforesaid military power."

A resolution was entered by the Board to the effect that the Board "deemed it to be their duty to protect against the aforesaid unlawful acts and to request that adequate measures and remedies be applied that said evils may be abated that citizens may have their lawful rights and that military authority may be checked and officers be taught proper subordination to civil authority. BE IT RESOLVED that his Excellency Hon. R. Caldwell, Governor of North Carolina, be requested to use his influence to have the aforesaid grievance addressed and to that end that he call upon the Secretary of War, and if he thinks proper the President of the United States, to order a strict and impartial investigation.

RESOLVED that a copy of the above preamble and resolution be sent to the Officer in Command of Fort Johnston, another to His Excellency Gov. Caldwell and that they be recorded on the minutes of the Commissioners of Brunswick County."

It is not known what happened as a result of the resolution. Perhaps future study of old records will reveal the answer. Anyway, the barrooms are gone!

Contributed by Susan Carson,
Society Archivist