

southport historical society

The Whittler's Bench

Post Office Box 10014, Southport, NC 28461
<http://www.southporthistoricalsociety.org/>
info@southporthistoricalsociety.org



IMPORTANT DATES

**SHS General Meeting Cover-dish Dinner 6:30pm, Speaker 7pm at
Southport Community Building**

Sept 25: Colonel Jim Rupkalvis

Nov 20: Wolfgang Furstenau

“Voices of the Old Burying Ground” will also be coming this fall.

Musings from Musette, President SHS

Publication of the Southport Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

OFFICERS:

President: Musette Steck
Vice President: Don Parker
Secretary: Charles Christianson
Treasurer: Phil Fravel
Archivist: Bill Johnson
DIRECTORS:
Martha Johnson
Betsie Lytton
Joni Schinske
Bob Surridge

MISSION STATEMENT:

The purpose of this society shall be to bring together persons interested in the history of Southport and surrounding areas. We endeavor to provide programs of historical interest at regular meetings, publish articles and books for the purpose of education and encourage community participation in the preservation of our heritage.

Southport Historical Society was established January 1976 and maintains the Old Jail Museum and the Susie S Carson Research Room in the Garrison.

If you haven't been to the Visitors' Center lately, I strongly recommend that you go and see what the Southport Historical Society (SHS) is doing to educate the public by displaying the written and visual history of Southport before most of us moved here.

We now have the space and flexibility in our display room to co-operate with the city of Southport when opportunities arise to share local history with visitors and residents. At the present, we are displaying the original red storefront of Fullwood's grocery that was a prominent part of the business district from the 1940's - 1960's. The old cash register with its paper tape roll and sectioned till fascinates computer generations. We are very pleased to be able to accommodate the over-flow of framed paintings of Southport scenes from the mid to late 1900's by the late Art Newton whose skilled hand and perceptive artistic eye have captured the Southport he knew while living here.

We also display a 192-year old letter of advice from Joshua Potts to his ten-year old son, Robert James, who was going to Halifax County, North Carolina to live with his sister, Sarah, and her husband, Willis Alston. That letter seems to be the only original document in Southport with the signature of Joshua Potts, founder of Smithville and one of the town's first commissioners appointed by the state legislature. It was acquired through an auction house in New York City that contacted the SHS about the sale to which we eagerly responded.

The Susie Sellers Carson Research Room is filled with file cabinets of her private collection. Also there are shelves of books accumulated by the SHS since its inception. Although it has taken decades, the SHS finally has a place that increases one's opportunity to learn more about Southport's history as well as delve into their own family history. If you want access to the room contact Bob Surridge at (570) 899-2525. He is also looking for volunteers to continue cataloging the files. Bill Johnson, our archivist, helps people research their local ancestors and the house plaques.

Go see for yourself how we are making our presence known at the Visitors' Center and Museum located in the Ft. Johnston Garrison house.

PROGRAMS SLATED FOR 2014-2015

Programs planned for the coming year promise to be interesting, informative and fun. Please mark your calendars for the following general membership meetings and programs scheduled for the Southport Community Building beginning 6:30 PM with covered dish dinner:

September 25, 2014: Featured speaker will be Colonel Jim Rupkalvis, Commander of the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point. He will discuss Sunny Point's support to overseas conflicts over the past 10 years and how "MOTSU" has adapted new technologies and processes in supporting the movement of ammunition in a safe and efficient manner.

November 20, 2014: Southport Historical Society's very own Wolfgang Furstenau will discuss the history of Oak Island. Wolf is the author of the book, "Long Beach: A North Carolina Town". For those who may not know, Long Beach was one of two towns (Yaupon Beach being the other) that merged to form the Town of Oak Island 15 years ago. (Please note that this meeting is scheduled for the THIRD Thursday of the month to accommodate Thanksgiving).

January 22, 2015: Our annual business meeting and Society update is always scheduled for the fourth Thursday in January. Southport Historical Society President, Musette Steck, will address the current state of the Society and provide news and information to the general membership.

March 26, 2015: UNC-Wilmington history professor, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, returns to Southport again to provide another insightful program on the history of the Lower Cape Fear. Stay tuned for more information on specific topic to be discussed.

May 28, 2015: Program to be announced. Next newsletter will provide specific information for this meeting.

Your Southport Historical Society is committed to providing quality programs of interest to the membership at large. Your feedback and ideas for future programs is welcome. Contact Don Parker at coastingdon@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome these new members who have joined since the last newsletter was sent out. We are delighted to have each of you and look forward to your involvement in our organization!

Kevin & April Alexander
Margaret Blanton
Betsy Blee
Robert & Michelle Carroll
Ron DeLair
Thais Fox & Joanne Stutz
Judy Gordon

Matt & Daphne Green
Janice Haas
LaVerna Hargrove
Carol & Bob Harris
Donnie Joyner
Ron & Susan Klotz
Hannah Marley

Michael & Mary Lou Misiewicz
Dale Mullarkey
Michael Powell
Priority Sailing
Lois Taylor
Marce Taylor
Sandra Ward

Our newest Life Members:
Don & Debby Parker

Susan Davis

Dave & Jan Dzuricky

Annual membership dues are due on January 1 of each year. If a new member joins after September 1st the membership is valid for the remainder of the year and the full next year. Application is on the back page.

CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES

It is time again for the Southport Historical Society's 25th Anniversary Christmas Tour of Homes. The tour is held annually, and is a fund-raising event for the Society. 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. The Tour also provides funds for scholarships at South Brunswick High School.



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 Homeowners' support and interest in the Tour. This year's Tour will take place on December 13, 2014 from 2pm to 7pm, with tickets priced at \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of the tour. 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 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/>

Fellow Southport Historical Society Members

You are invited to be a docent during the 2014 Christmas Tour of Homes on Saturday, December 13th. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time in one of the very special homes within the historic district of Southport. As in the past, there will be two (2) shifts. The first shift will be from 2:00 PM until 4:30 PM. The second shift will be from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM. As a thank you, volunteers are given a complimentary pass to visit all of the homes on the Tour. Please consider helping the Historical Society to once again make this year's Tour a successful fund-raiser!

You may respond by email to Audrey Carathanasis noraud@ec.rr.com or call her at 910-845-5700.

SUSAN SELLERS CARSON SCHOLARSHIP

The success of the Christmas Tour of Homes allows SHS to continue to give the Susan Carson Scholarship. This year there were six applicants with two so closely qualified, the committee decided to award a second one-time scholarship. This award was possible due to the generosity of a friend of the SHS.

John Macon Michaux of Oak Island was the winner of this year's scholarship. His winning essay was an explanation of the street names of the Brunswick county governmental Complex and a description of the events behind the names. John will be attending East Carolina University in Greenville.

The second scholarship was given to Olivia Bowers of Southport whose essay was on the history of public schools for black children in Brunswick County from 1896 to 1954. Olivia plans to attend N.C. State University in Raleigh.

Congratulations to John and Olivia!

HISTORIC HOUSE PLAQUE

Bill Johnson, Archivist



The Historical Society's Historical Plaque program has been quite active since January of this year. With each new application I find myself meeting Southport's home and property owners from years gone by. I become quite happy when I uncover an interesting story, which I seem to have missed in the short time, I have been studying the history of my new hometown.

Early in March of this year the Society received a request for a house plaque, for a home on West St. George Street. Ms. Isabelle Anderson made the request for Fred Moore, her grandfather's house. Fred Moore was the second owner of the property and the first owner of the house that he built.

I found Ms. Anderson's home a charming example of a bygone time in Southport's history. The Fred Moore House is well cared for and exemplifies cottages built in Southport during the 1920's. Ms. Anderson told me some of the history of the house and how it rode-out Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Ms. Anderson wanted the plaque to read "Fred Moore House" and we determined that the property date should be "Circa 1920". Isabelle Anderson was quiet gratuitous when I called her to say that the application had been approved and what legend would be placed on the plaque.

One of the things that I found most helpful in Miss Anderson's documentation of the property ownership transfers was the fact that her documents included not only the locations of the property lines but also the name of the owners of the adjacent properties. Finding information about a house (building) is the most difficult part in qualifying for a plaque. Deeds of property mention the land but very rarely the house. When I looked at the 1920 census record I found Mr. Fred Moore and also confirmation that the names on the deed transfers matched those on the census.

Ms. Anderson was able to include a photo of Fred Moore (her grandfather), her mother Mary Moore Anderson on the right, and her aunt "Chippie" Swain-on the left with her cousin, Mary Davis (little girl).

They are standing on the side of the house----picture taken circa 1940.

If you are wondering if your house qualifies for a plaque, the application is on the Society's website with information needed to have your house qualified. If you are also interested in your family history and would like to work with Bill on genealogy contact him at info@southporthistoricalsociety.org



SHS BOOK PAGE

Books can be purchased from the Southport Historical Society at the Old Jail from 12:30 - 3:30 PM on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and online at <http://www.southporthistoricalsociety.org/book-store>.
Prices are listed online

<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>Chronologies of Smithville/Southport, Volume I, II, III, and IV</i> By Bill Reaves	Four-volume chronology 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>Guns for Cotton</i> By Thomas Boaz	There are many surprising revelations about the War Between the States in this book.
<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: The Lives and Recipes of the Ladies of Southport in 1907</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>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>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- and well-known facts of the town's history are written in this book describing local scenes.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you haven't paid your dues for 2014, please do so ASAP. You don't want to become "History"!

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Membership Application

Yes, I (we) would like to support the Southport Historical Society.
Please accept this membership in the category checked below:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$ 15.00 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple | \$ 25.00 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (Through High School) | \$ 2.00 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business, Institutional, Club, or Professional | \$ 15.00 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$ 25.00 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life (Individual) | \$150.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life (Business or Couple) | \$200.00 |

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____

Email Address _____

Please Make Check Payable To: Southport Historical Society (SHS)
Box 10014
Southport, NC 28461-0014

Thank you for your support