



THE WHITTLERS BENCH

SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 487
Southport, N.C. 28461

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EARLY RECORDS NOW AVAILABLE

The Southport-Brunswick County Library has recently acquired the early public records of Brunswick County on microfilm. These records are a major source of information about local history and genealogy.

The library also has a new microfilm reader which is easy to operate, and a member of the library staff is always on hand to assist you.

Listed below are the Brunswick County records in the library's microfilm collection:

County Court Minutes, 1805-1868
Minutes, Superior Court, 1845-1897

Record of Deeds, 1764-1870
General Index to Real Estate:
Grantor, 1764 - 1931
Grantee, 1764 - 1931

Record of Deeds and Grants,
1788 - 1815

Land Entries, 1853 - 1953

Marriage Bonds, 1804 - 1868

Marriage Bonds (Abstracts):
1804 - 1868, Vols. A-W
1818 - 1834, Vols. A-W

Marriage Register, 1850 - 1961

Record of Pensions, 1927-1953

Record of Wills, 1764-1954
Cross Index to Wills, 1764-1963

(estate records)
Record of Accounts, 1868-1926
Record of Settlements, 1868-1955
Appointment of Executors, Administrators and Guardians, 1868-1929

Minutes, Board of County Commissioners, 1868-1898

Proceedings of the Superintendent of Common Schools, 1841-1854

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 ** SEPTEMBER MEETING **

 Genealogy is the program topic for the next meeting of the Southport Historical Society. Mrs. E.M. McEachern, who is currently teaching a class in genealogical research at Cape Fear Technical Institute, will be the guest speaker. Members and guests are cordially invited to attend the meeting on Thursday, September 23, at 8:00 P.M. in the Board Room (side entrance) of the Southport--Brunswick County Library.

THORSEN COLLECTING ORAL HISTORY

Bob Thorsen is working to preserve local history by making tape recordings of his interviews with some of our older citizens. When completed, these tapes and a type-written transcript of the interviews will be added to the archives of the Southport Historical Society. Our archive collection is housed in the Southport library.

Copies of the oral history interviews made by the Brunswick County Bicentennial Committee are also to be on file in the library.

As Mr. Thorsen has discovered, our older residents can tell many interesting stories about Southport's past. These personal accounts add to our understanding of local history and provide information not found in written records.

Announcements, changes of address, questions or any other items about this newsletter should be addressed to: Kathryn Carson
P.O. Box 115, Southport
telephone: 457- 6940

SPOTLIGHT ON HISTORY
AN EARLY DESCRIPTION OF CAPE FEAR

Dr. John Brickell, a native of Ireland, came to Carolina around 1729 and resided in the Albemarle area for about two years. He then returned to Ireland and in 1737 published The Natural History of North Carolina, a lengthy description of the natural, social and economic conditions he had observed in the Carolina colony.

In his account of "the most considerable Inlets and Havens" of the province, Dr. Brickell writes:

"Cape Fear Inlet lyes in the Latitude of 33 Degrees 53 Minutes; it is the best in all North Carolina, where you have 7 Fathom Water at the Barr. You have likewise a fine Harbour, and can come with safety to an Anchor 5 or 6 Leagues up the River!

"And notwithstanding it is so commodious for Navigation, yet few or no planters settled here till within these few Years, but now in all Appearance, it seems to be the most rising part of all this Province; there being now many Substantial Planters settled there, and are become very Rich within the space of Nine or Ten Years, it being little frequented or inhabited before that Time, viz. in the Year 1723."

Dr. Brickell was well impressed with the plantations he saw along the river:

"The Planters for the most part live by the Water side, few or none living in the In-land parts of the Country at present....Most part of the Plantations run but a Mile backward into the Woods, so' that betwixt every River you shall see vast Tracts of Land lying waste, or inhabited only by wild Beasts:

(continued in column 2, above)

Brickell's Natural History, Cont.

What is worthy of Observation is, That almost every Planter may have a convenient Dock upon his Plantation, and a sufficient Quantity of good Timber to build Ships and Boats withal. "

 WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sias have joined the Southport Historical Society. Mrs. Sias has agreed to serve as publicity consultant for the society.

 ON THE SHELF

Searching for Your Ancestors, by Charles H. Doane. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press (third edition), 1960.*

Almost everyone would like to know about his ancestors but few people really know how to go about tracing their family history. This book provides an excellent guide, "written primarily for the individual who has always thought that he would look up his family tree, but has never got around to it."

The author, a professional librarian and experienced genealogist, gives many examples of ways to obtain information. He explains how to gather accurate data from legal documents, family memorabilia, relatives, historical records and even some unusual sources. The book also shows several methods of organizing the information you collect.

The appendix includes a bibliography of numerous books and publications containing genealogical information and a state-by-state listing of census records and other useful materials.

Searching for Your Ancestors is a clear and entertaining guide for anyone interested in family history. The research methods recommended in this book could easily be applied to other types of historical research.

 *available in the Southport-Brunswick County Library.