



Susie

THE WHITTLERS BENCH

Southport Historical Society

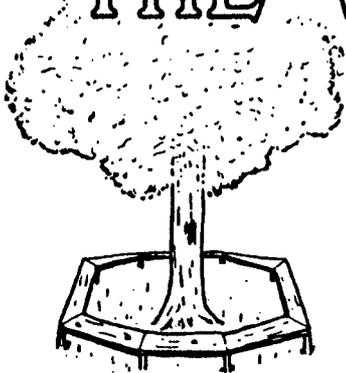
501 North Atlantic Avenue
Southport, North Carolina 28461

VOL. XIV Number 4 July 4, 1990

THE WHITTLERS BENCH

SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

501 N. Atlantic Ave. - SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA 28461



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THE WHITTLERS BENCH

THE SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



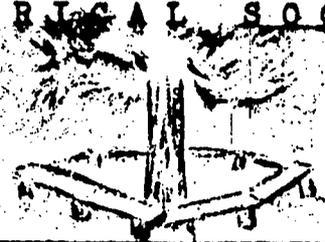
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THE WHITTLERS BENCH

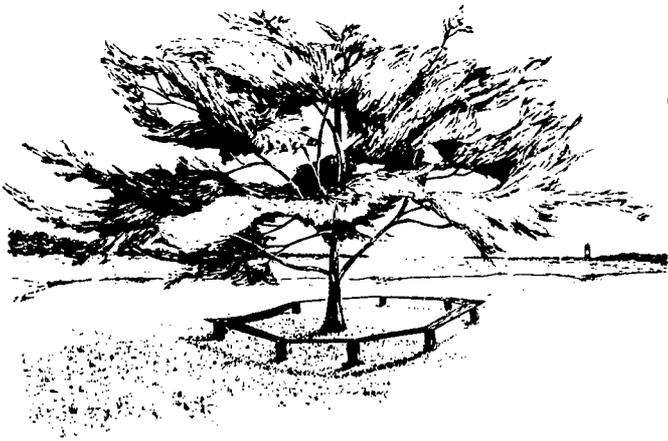
SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Vol. I, No. 1
March 4, 1976

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

***** For many generations the Whittlers Bench on the waterfront has *****
been a favorite spot for relaxing, gossiping, telling tall tales
or "just whittlin'." The historical society newsletter, too, is an
informal gathering place where members may get acquainted, exchange
ideas and share information. And so it is appropriate that South-
port's most familiar landmark become the symbol of our newsletter.



THE WHITTLERS BENCH

Southport Historical Society

501 North Atlantic Avenue
Southport, North Carolina 28461
VOL. XIV Number 4 July 4, 1990

NEW LOGO

Beginning with this issue, our newsletter has a new header and logo. The previous Whittlers Bench tree became tired and age made reproduction difficult. The first page shows the evolution of the symbol of the newsletter and an excerpt from the first issue explains why the Whittlers Bench was chosen for the Society's logo. If you have any suggestions on information to include in forthcoming issues, please let us know. We welcome announcements, comments, and letters to the editor.

MEETINGS

The Old County Jail at the corner of Nash and Rhett streets will be open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday July 2 through 4. A very interesting display of ship models, duck decoys, sea shells and knot tying has been set up. These displays are a good sample of some of the items that can be shown in a Maritime museum. In addition to displays, there will be a video to describe some of the history of the area.

Society members are invited to join fellow members in greeting citizens and visitors along with socializing, answering questions about Southport and the surrounding environment, and just being there.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be 7:00 P.M. Thursday, September 7, 1990 at the Old Jail.

THE NEXT VOLUME

Volume II. "Southport: A Chronology, Volume II, 1878-1920 by Bill Reaves will be available at the Old Jail. The book contains approximately 625 pages of history and photographs. The cost will be \$18 for Historical Society members and \$20 for non-members

OLD LOG BUILDING

Efforts are ongoing to relocate, preserve, and display the only log structure known to have survived more than 150 years in the coastal plain. Scheduling, site location and funding are major problems; however, we have high hopes that the project will be completed by Southport's Bicentennial in 1992.

PLEASE! PLEASE!

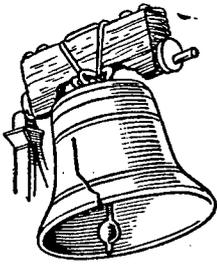
Spread the news. Talk it up. The Southport Historic Society has the Old Jail open on Sundays. Tell all the visitors. Tell it in the park. Tell it on the ferry, shout it from the treetops. Pass it on! Advertise your Society.

STUDENT MEMBER

WELCOME to membership in the Southport Historical Society Frances Franck - our very first student member. Frances paid her dues on June 16 and became a full fledged member, and was put to work immediately sorting and arranging back issues of Whittlers Bench. Prior to joining she had often helped out in getting the Whittlers Bench folded and stamped and on Sunday, June 10, helped out at the Old Jail. She has promised to encourage other young people to become "Junior Historians" and members of our Society.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Found in Barneget Bay, New Jersey about a year ago a life preserver labled "SHAWARA SOUTHPORT." Was it's home base our Southport? If anyone knows of this vessel, please call Carl Anthony - 278-4000.



"With Liberty and
Justice for All."

The History Page

(NOTE: The following article was contributed to the History Page by Mrs. Jackie Savidge. It is taken from Civil War Medicine: A Look Back, by Mary L. Cook)

CIVIL WAR MEDICINE

In the early afternoon of Sunday, April 14, 1861, a cannon misfired and exploded in Fort Sumter near Charleston, S. C. When the hot, acrid smoke cleared, Union Pvt. Daniel Hough was dead. He was the first casualty of America's most divisive conflict, the Civil War.

Before the Civil War ended in 1865, approximately 620,000 Northern and Southern soldiers would die, a number that almost equals the combined total of 680,000 soldiers killed in all other American wars.

The Union lost almost 360,000 men and the Confederate side lost 260,000, an even more devastating cost when you consider that the South's antebellum population was only a fraction of the North's. Almost one out of four Civil War soldiers never came home. In comparison, one American combatant in 126 died in the Korean War.

North Carolina suffered heavier losses in the war than any other Confederate State. Over 40,000 Tar Heel Soldiers died. A North Carolinian, Pvt. Henry Lawson Wyatt, was the first Confederate soldier killed in the Civil War in the battle of Bethel in Virginia.

Disease caused 3 out of 5 Federal fatalities and claimed 2 out of 3 Confederate dead. Dysentery, pneumonia, flu and other illness killed Federals and Confederates alike.

Health problems were virtually guaranteed for Civil War soldiers. Physical or age screening were cursory at best, so many recruits were frequently too young, old or unhealthy to withstand the rigors of war. Dirt was not a concern of the soldiers and soap and water was a rarity. Most military camps could be located by following the smell of open sewers, polluted water, and rotting garbage. The soldiers were inadequately fed, housed and clothed. Unionists could often track their enemy by his bare bloody footprints.

The Union had less than 100 military doctors for hundreds of thousands of enlistees and few adequate hospitals or ambulances. If a soldier did survive the horrors of battle and was lucky enough to reach a field or general hospital alive, his troubles were just beginning.

Fortunately, these shocking conditions generated public outrage that spurred combat medical care reform.

Civil War surgeons faced challenges unparalleled in medical history. The trauma of warfare far exceeded a surgeon's skills. Contrary to popular belief, anesthesia was widely used in Civil War surgery. Although poorly understood and often toxic, chloroform was the most popular. In addition, Civil War surgeons lost many battles to save the wounded because of ignorance about infection. Most used the same unwashed set of hands and instruments on patient after patient.

Fortunately, America's medical and military establishments learned from Civil War medical care successes and failures. The Civil War also gave birth to the modern hospital and modern nursing. Overnight, nurses rose from the status of a pesthouse attendant to that of a respected professional. Although at the War's beginning male

