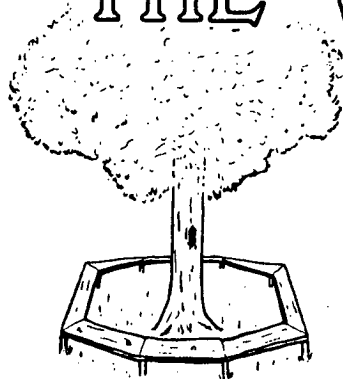


THE WHITTLERS BENCH



SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

April 17, 1989

MEETING: A covered dish meeting will be held April 27, 1989 at the home of Don and Betty Johnson's , 515 East Moore st. at 6:30 PM. Come out and bring your favorite dish and attend an informative meeting.

ANTIQUE SHOW: Our Antique Show will be held again this year at the Brunswick Community College Annex Gym on N. Lord St. beginning July 1st. It will be opened parts of each day through July 4th. We are interested in obtaining more exhibitors and, of course, a larger attendance. Both will require more workers, so please consider volunteering at our coming meeting. A copy of our letter sent to Antique Dealers is enclosed.

GENEALOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

We continue to issue Century and Pioneer Certificates. Some of the ancestors honored with Certificates are: Thomas Hendrix Wolfe, Arthur Samuel Wolfe, Benjamin Blaney, Robert Maxwell McRackan, George W. Wortham, Joseph Bennett, Joshua Sykes/Sikes, Sr., and wife Emory Baker, James Harrington and wife Elizabeth McGehee, William McGehee and wife Ann Moore, Joseph Moore and wife Ann Hodges, William N. Tate, Alexander Colvin, Alexander McAllister, James (Jesse) Simon Long. Other applications are pending review.

If you want to honor your ancestor with a certificate send a Stamped Return Envelope to SHS, Genealogy Committee, 811 Memory Lane, Southport, NC 28461 and we'll send you the application form. Your ancestor must have been a resident of Brunswick County 100 years ago, but the applicant does not need to reside in Brunswick County now. The Pioneer Certificates honor ancestors who were residents of North Carolina 200 years ago, but the applicant does not need to be a resident of North Carolina now. We do ask that genealogical proof be submitted for line of descent from ancestor honored and a donation for the Cemetery Endowment Fund be made.

Some members are sending us a short essay on their personal remembrances of their parents or grandparents. We are starting a special file for this type of information. Future generations will appreciate this contemporary information that no one else can give us.

SPECIAL GENEALOGICAL NOTICE -- A Southport Historical Society Member who lives out of state, and who is a well qualified genealogist writes me that over the years she has collected much material on Brunswick County Families. Her own line is Sellers; but she has information (wills, deeds, etc.,) on many other families. One line, the Crocker/Crooker is back to a MAYFLOWER Passenger. This member will share the information, but of course, would need a minimal fee for reproduction and preparation. Anyone interested can see me, Abbie Bitney, at the next meeting. I will show you the long list of families and give you the address of our out of state member.



CEMETERY ENDOWMENT FUND, continues to grow, but slowly. The current CD balance as of 3/29/89 is \$1,701.59. The savings account balance is \$59.41.

OTHER CEMETERY ITEMS -- Following the guide lines published by the American Association for State and Local History, in cooperation with the Association for Gravestone Studies, plans are being made to map our Old Graveyards in Southport. Member William Delaney of Tidewater Engineering and Surveying, PA, will mark off the burial grounds into grids, using marked and numbered stakes. We will then need volunteers to show on paper, each such marked square the location and condition of each grave marker in their assigned square. Cemetery committee member, Janice Stanley, of River's End Bed and Breakfast, who has had drafting experience will help us join the grids together into a map. We have many uses for the map. At Mr. Delaney's suggestion, and the Cemetery Committee agrees, we are going to make the map on Mylar which is flexible and durable for 300 years.

As far as we have been able to determine, this will be the first map of the Old Smithville Burying Grounds since it was started about 200 years ago. We are starting a list of volunteers for each grid, and when the cemeteries are squared off the volunteer can cover his area at his own convenience. We would like to have the project completed by fall (say Thanksgiving). Come to the next meeting prepared to sign up as a volunteer.

The Cemetery Committee also is planning a "Marker Rubbing Day." Members started clearing the Old Morse Cemetery off of West West Street. However, its heavy vegetation was beyond the time and strength of volunteers. The Committee Chairman asked Southport Parks and Recreation Department Director, Joe Medlin, for help. He put one of his careful crews in the cemetery and they have cleared out the vines, undergrowth and seeded the area. We have the paper and other necessary materials to make Gravestone Rubbings. We'll need a small fee to help cover the expenses (Also, we will accept donations to the Endowment Fund). We plan to invite anyone from the community who wants to try their hand at tombstone rubbing to come and join us. Instructions will be given, watch the State Port Pilot for date and time.

The GARDEN PAGE

by Flora Greensteeves

DOGWOOD

Cornus florida

To many people, the flowering of dogwood trees marks the real arrival of spring. Whether scattered among forest trees or grown as a garden specimen, dogwood is always a glorious sight when smothered in blossoms, but it is equally beautiful during the rest of the year. Throughout the summer months its broad light-green leaves and spreading branches provide welcome shade while in autumn its leaves turn deep red, and in winter bright red berries ornament its delicate branches.

Dogwood is a native plant and is widely distributed throughout eastern forests. It has been widely cultivated since colonial times and, in its original wild form, has remained a horticultural favorite even though various hybrids and Asiatic species have been introduced as competitors in modern times. The flowering dogwood in its native setting caught the eye of several early travellers who wrote glowing accounts of it. Mark Catesby described the dogwood quite accurately in his Natural History of the Carolinas... (1731) and commented on its year-round beauty. He noted that the berries, while very attractive, were little liked by birds "except in time of Dearth" but said that he had seen "mockbirds and other kinds of thrushes feed on them." In one of the exquisite color plates Catesby painted to illustrate his book, the dogwood is shown with the mockingbird. Although dogwood flowers are usually white, there is a pink variety which occurs naturally, and Catesby was very pleased to have discovered one of these "which had luckily blown down, and many of its branches had taken root, which I transplanted into a garden." In 1731 he sent specimens of both the white and pink varieties to London. It is likely, however, that the American dogwood had already been introduced into England by John Banister, an Anglican clergyman who settled in Charles City, Va., in 1678 where he wrote both a natural history of the area and a catalogue of plants he found there. In any event, dogwood was cultivated and marketed on both sides of the Atlantic before the American Revolution. The English plant expert Philip Miller, in the 1768 edition of his Gardener's Dictionary, noted that the tree was "now very common in the nurseries, where it is known by the name of Virginia Dogwood." In a 1771 advertisement, the nursery of William Prince on Long Island, N.Y., offered white dogwood plants for one shilling, 6 pence each. English gardeners coveted the lovely American tree but found that it did not grow as well or bloom as reliably in their gardens as it did in its homeland.

Like many other plants now grown only as ornamentals, dogwood was once valued for a variety of practical purposes. From the Indians the colonists learned that extracts of the bark, roots and twigs could be used to treat malaria and other fevers. Indeed, William Byrd reported that when he ran the dividing line between North Carolina and Virginia, "our chief medicine was Dogwood bark." John Brickell noted in 1737 that an infusion of the root bark from dogwood was "given to the children to kill the Worms." The Cherokee made a dogwood tea as a remedy for such ailments as backache, chicken pox, colic, measles and flu as well as for malaria. In his notes on the materia medica of the United States, Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton, a Philadelphia physician in the early 1800s, recommends an infusion of dogwood flowers for intermittent fevers in humans and also for "yellow water" fever in horses. The wood was also found to be useful in a number of ways. The colonists, for example, found that frayed dogwood twigs could serve as a toothbrush while the wood, being very hard and fine-grained, was suitable for making mallet heads, weaving shuttles, jeweler's blocks and other objects that had to be durable and shock resistant. In fact, the name dogwood may be derived from "dag-wood, reflecting its early use as skewers, or daggers, for roasting meat.

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The Latin name is cornus, meaning "horn," a reference to the hardness of the wood, and florida, which means "flowering." Dogwood blooms in early spring, usually mid-April in the Southport area. According to Mr. Clarence Stanley, a Brunswick County gardener with considerable expertise in the cultivation of ornamentals, once the dogwood comes into full flower in the woods, there will be no more frost and it is safe to set out tender summer plants and crops. This bit of folk wisdom, derived from long years of experience, is remarkably accurate, and Southport gardeners will find it a useful rule-of-thumb.

Flowering dogwood is one of about 120 cornus species found in America with other species found in Europe and Asia. It is a close relative of the European cornelian cherry which has also been grown in this country since colonial times. The true flowers of dogwood are actually the tiny greenish yellow clusters that appear on the bare branches first, followed by the four distinctive modified leaf bracts in white, or occasionally pink, which create the showy display we think of as dogwood flowers. The colorful bracts disappear as the full foliage emerges, but the inconspicuous true flowers remain to form the red berries that are seen throughout autumn and winter. Although it is strictly an American species, the flowering dogwood is sometimes incorporated into the lore and legend of Easter, perhaps because it so often flowers at Easter time and the notched pattern of its four flower bracts somewhat resembles a cross. Dogwood is, of course, the state flower of North Carolina.

Being a woodland species, dogwood grows and flowers well under the canopy of larger trees, making it especially valuable for Southport gardens. It will also do well in full sun. Dogwood is a relatively small tree, reaching only about 30 feet at maturity, and when left to grow in its natural shape, it branches evenly and gracefully. Healthy specimens rarely attract disease or pests, and the local soil suits it perfectly. Plants can easily be obtained in local nurseries or from garden catalogues, and it is also possible to transplant dogwoods from the wild while they are still very small. Planting should always be done in the winter, preferably in January, in the Southport area. Ripe berries sown in a cold frame in late fall will readily produce seedlings that can be transplanted to the garden in a few years. Young plants need to be watered deeply during hot dry weather until they are well established. Afterwards, they will grow for many years with little or no maintenance. Dogwood, which grows abundantly in the pine and oak forests near Southport, was no doubt popular in the earliest Southport gardens, and it remains a truly fine specimen for our gardens today.



UNUSUAL PLANT DONATED TO SOCIETY'S GARDEN

Seeds of the Chinese tallow-tree have been donated by Mr. E.J. Prevatte from an old specimen in his Bay Street garden. The seeds are now being germinated to obtain seedlings for the Benjamin Smith Garden at the old jail site. This truly unusual tree, with wedge-shaped leaves and berries that resemble popcorn, is a native of China and was brought to the United States in the eighteenth century. Its name comes from the fact that the Chinese extracted from the berries a waxy substance that could be used in candles and lamps. The tallow-tree was once very popular as an ornamental in southern gardens, but it is now becoming increasingly scarce in cultivation. In some areas, notably around Charleston, tallow-trees have become naturalized in the coastal woodlands. Its peculiar berries are often used in dried arrangements and Christmas wreaths.



Several years ago, among some papers given to me by the late Annie May Woodside, I found a poem which had evidently been written during the Great Depression. From the text, it was apparently written by a member of the Southport Woman's Club, or at least for the Club. The paper had only the initials "A.F.O.R." Does anyone know what these stand for?. The poem is used here because it depicts Southport as it was in those days. It continued to be sung by school children in chapel programs for a number of years. I can remember singing it then.

SING OF SOUTHPORT (Tune - "Battle Hymn of the Republic")

In our safely land-locked harbor, we are nestled comfortably,
We can laugh at storms (certainly before "Hurricane Hazel" and "Diana"!) and tidal waves for them we never see
And the Grand Old Cape Fear River flows on by us to the sea
Let the world go marching by.

CHORUS: Glory, glory, sing of Southport; glory, glory, sing of Southport;
Glory, glory sing of Southport, "The City by the Sea". (This was sung very loudly)

There are good farms all around us, and there's game out in the wood,
And if we'll go and get it, we have plenty of seafood.
The Town is overflowing now with everything that's good
Let the world go marching by.

Our little Town is modern, and it's very up to date,
Electric lights and waterworks - the best in all the State.
And as for the location, sure, it is the "Ocean Gate".
Let the world go marching by.

The liveoaks in our City are a joy beyond compare,
And now we're planning for a park in lovely Franklin Square.
Then it will be a beauty spot for all to gather there.
Let the world go marching by.

We have churches where we worship; we have schools in which we learn,
A library we are proud of, with its books at every turn.
But our Woman's Club's the finest thing of all the things in Town.
Let the world go marching by.

NOTE: From its very beginning, the Woman's Club has always supported every good civic cause, quite often initiating the action. Perhaps for a future issue we can persuade one of the members to write its history for us.

Remember, Southport will celebrate its Bicentennial Year in 1992. Let's hear from you with some ideas of what you would like to see the Southport Historical Society sponsor - something truly related to our history and heritage.

Southport Historical Society

900 W. West Street
Southport, North Carolina 28461

February 2, 1989

Dear Antique Dealer,

Last year the Southport Historical Society sponsored its first annual Antique Show and Sale as a part of the annual N. C. 4th of July celebration in Southport. It was quite successful and the exhibitors were pleased with their sales.


We believe that a quality Antique Show and Sale will attract more and more of the estimated forty thousand who attend the July 4th celebration and are planning our second show beginning Saturday, July 1st, hours 10 to 8, Sunday, July 2nd, hours 1 to 6, Monday, July 3rd, hours 10 to 6, and Tuesday, July 4th, hours 1 to 5.

We hope to use the same facility at Brunswick Community College Annex Gymnasium located on the corner of N. Lord and W. 8th Streets which has ample parking. Spaces, approximately 12' x 12' are now being reserved for interested exhibitors for a fee of fifty (50) dollars. Please send the reservation form at the end of this letter to insure your space. We would like a response by April 15, 1989.

Following is a list of motels in this area; it would be advisable to reserve space as early as possible:

PORT MOTEL - Long Beach Rd., Southport.....	457-4800
SPORTSMAN INN - 57th St., West, Long Beach.....	278-5267
RIVERSIDE MOTEL - 103 W. Bay St., Southport.....	457-6986
SEA CAPTAIN MOTOR LODGE - 608 W. West St., Southport.....	457-5263
OCEAN CREST MOTEL - 1411 E. Beach Dr., Long Beach....	278-3333
THE SOUTHPORT MOTEL - 512 Howe St., Southport.....	457-9312
CAPTAIN'S COVE MOTEL - 6401 E. Oak Island Dr., Long B.	278-6026
COASTAL MOTEL - 905 Yaupon Dr., Yaupon Beach.....	278-5544
DRIFTWOOD MOTEL - 200 Keziah St., Yaupon Beach.....	278-6114
ISLAND INN - 5611 E. Oak Island Dr., Long Beach.....	278-3366
WEST INN - 2714 W. Beach Dr., Long Beach.....	278-7449

Sincerely,


Jack Fairley, Chairman
(919) 457-5512

NAME _____ FIRM _____
STREET _____ CITY _____

I ENCLOSE A CHECK FOR \$ _____ IN PAYMENT FOR _____ SPACE(S)