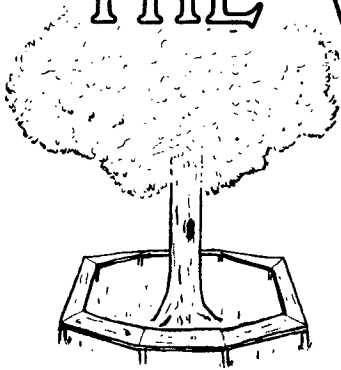


Correct +
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Susie

THE WHITTLERS BENCH



SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

501 N. Atlantic Avenue • SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA 28461

OCTOBER 21, 1987

FALL DINNER MEETING - to be held at Old Jail on Nash Street on Thursday, October 29th, at 6:30 P. M. This is a potluck affair, so prepare a favorite dish or two and come on down for the dinner and meeting. Guests are welcome. Our speaker will be the director of the "Save Masonboro Island" organization. He will discuss the efforts of preserving the island being put forth by his organization.

LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFT? For several years the White House Historical Association has been offering attractive White House Christmas tree ornaments. The 1987 ornament features the North doorway of the White House and can be ordered for \$9.75 from The White House Historical Association, Department 3030, Washington, D. C. 20042.

NOW, DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS (OR ANY OTHER KIND!) GIFT TO SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY? You gotta extra air conditioning unit or dehumidifier that you no longer use? If so, the Old Jail could certainly use one or more of these - especially a window air conditioner. Just call Paul Sweeney or Eleanor Smith.

REVISED (PROPOSED) CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS: Copies are attached to this issue of Whittlers Bench. Study them over and be prepared to vote on them on ~~October~~ **October** 29th so they can become effective, if approved, with the January 1988 meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee will also be heard at the October meeting and it follows the suggestions for officers etc. as made in the proposed constitution and by-laws. This will be the first real revision since the Society began in 1976, although a few minor changes have been made from time to time.

NEW FEATURE TO WHITTLERS BENCH: Beginning with this issue, the Genealogy Committee, with Abbie Bitney as Chairman, will have a column called "Trees, Branches and Twigs" which will feature information and articles on genealogy and will accept queries for publication in the Whittlers Bench.

HISTORY TID BITS: The following was copied from the Cape Fear Recorder of May 23, 1832: "Rent or sale on the most accommodating terms, the pleasant, healthy and well-improved lot in the Town of Smithville, late the residence of Mrs. Clitherall. On the premises are two neat and convenient dwelling houses together with all necessary outhouses, and extensive ornamental kitchen garden, a fine arbor of grapes, and two excellent wells of water, the whole under a good and handsome enclosure. For terms apply to Dr. S.B. Everett or to John Brown, Esq. of Smithville."

(Note: Dr. Clitherall died on Nov. 9, 1829, and is buried in St. James Churchyard, Wilmington. His widow, who had operated a school for girls at her residence since 1814, closed the school and moved to New Bern to be near her brother and to open a school there).

TREES, BRANCHES, AND TWIGS.

Please write these people direct if you have information to share. Remember enclose a stamped, addressed, envelope if you want a reply.

I am looking for information on SARAH ELIZABETH (DAVIS) GALLOWAY. She died 3 Sept. 1876 in Brunswick County, N.C. I would also appreciate any information on her father, CALEB DAVIS. Mrs. Katherine Galloway Black, 210 Crystal Lake Drive, Clermont, FL 32711.

My grandmother Mrs. ELIZE E. GEORGE died 9 May 1865 at Wilmington, North Carolina. I found her obituary in the Ft. Wayne, Indiana newspapers 1841-1900. It reads "After faithfully aiding with her friendly hands and cheering with her Christian and motherly voice, the sick and wounded soldiers of our army, on the march, on the battlefield and in the hospital for over three years, the Heroine fell at her post, honored and loved by all who knew her." I would like to find her burial place. Can anyone help me? Alan J. Mumbrue, 2025 Hawthorne Lane, Evanston, IL 60201.

My grandfather, Captain JOHN W. HARPER (1856-1917), lived on Masonboro Island. Can anyone share information with me? Mrs. Catherine R. Stribling, 111 N. Estes Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

I am trying to find any information on JOHN CONYERS, born Smithville area about 1750. SARAH BERNARD, born about 1759, married to John Conyers about 1775. Mrs. Westray, 1001 Yorktown Drive, Charleston, S.C. 29412.

We will print genealogical queries in the Whittlers Bench as space will permit. Abbie Bitney, Certified Genealogical Records Searcher, Genealogy Committee chairman.



CRAPE MYRTLE
(LAGERSTROEMIA INDICA)

The Garden Page (by Flora P. Greensleeves)

CRAPE MYRTLE (*Lagerstroemia indica*)

Crape myrtle is truly the crowning glory of a southern summer. Its bright blossoms, usually rose or pink, though sometimes lavender or white, appear in great profusion at mid-summer, just as the heat begins to exhaust many other garden flowers. The blossoms with their ruffled petals that resemble crape fabric, often last until the first cool days of fall. But even in its winter bareness, crape myrtle adds beauty to the landscape. The bark has a splotchy, almost peeled, appearance, and each of the long, angular branches is tipped with many six-sided woody seed capsules that remain until spring. With bright green leaves, much like those of the true myrtle, in spring and vivid yellow foliage in autumn, crape myrtle is literally a plant for all seasons.

Like many other noteworthy ornamentals, crape myrtle originated in China. It was brought into Europe from China and India in 1747, and into England from the East Indies in 1759, but little is known about its arrival in America. Records show that it was growing in a New York botanical garden in the early 1800's; however, some archaeological evidence suggests that it may have reached America well before the end of the 18th century. The number of mature specimens remaining in Southport today offer proof of its widespread use here in the past. Crape myrtle is reliably hardy in this area and requires no care. In fact, it grows so well that many plants have escaped cultivation and become naturalized in nearby woods and fields. Although it can be kept to shrub size by regular pruning, crape myrtle looks best when allowed to grow slowly into a small tree. The new dwarf varieties offer the same hardiness and summer color but lack the distinctive shape and attractive wood textures of the original.

NOTE: The first two plants in the Benjamin Smith Memorial Garden at the Old Jail are crape myrtles, generously donated by Sandy and Betty McCrodden, the same nice members who let us use many of their potted plants at the jail during the recent 4th of July Festival. Thanks, Betty and Sandy.

CONSTITUTION OF SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Society shall be the SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

ARTICLE - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Society shall be to bring together persons interested in the history of Southport and surrounding area. Understanding the history of our community is basic to our democratic way of life, gives us a better understanding of our state and nation, and promotes a better appreciation of our American heritage.

The Society's basic function shall be to discover and collect materials which help illustrate the history of the area - its exploration, settlement, development; its activities in war and peace; its progress in population, wealth, education, government, arts, sciences, agriculture, manufactures, trade and transportation. The Society shall collect histories, genealogies, biographies, directories, newspapers, pamphlets, clippings, catalogs, circulars, handbills, programs, posters, letters, diaries, journals, memoranda, reminiscences, rosters, service records, account books, charts, maps, pictures, photographs and anything illustrative of life, conditions, events and activities of the past.

The Society shall provide for the preservation of such material and its accessibility, as far as feasible, to all who wish to examine or study it; to cooperate with city officials in the preservation of the town's records and archives; and to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, monuments and markers.

The Society shall disseminate historical information and arouse interest in the past by publishing a newsletter known as THE WHITTLERS' BENCH at least quarterly; by publishing articles and books; by programs at regular meetings; and by encouraging the youth of the community to become aware of their heritage and take part in preserving historical materials.

The Society shall cooperate with the Brunswick County Historical Society, the North Carolina Department of Archives and History, the National Historic Preservation Trust; the American Association for State and Local History, and any other organization recommended by its Executive Board. The Society shall subscribe to the publications of each of the foregoing, the said publications to become a part of the Society's collection of materials.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Society shall be in the following categories: Individual; Husband/Wife; Student; Business, Institutional, Club or Professional; Sustaining; and Life (individual, and husband/wife).

ARTICLE IV - ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held during the month of January.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1: The officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Archivist-Librarian, and Editor of the Society's newsletter, each of whom shall be elected for a term of two years; and three (3) directors who shall be elected to serve as follows: One for a period of one year, one for a period of two years, and one for a period of three years. The duties of the officers and directors shall be

as defined in the by-laws.

Section 2. The officers and directors shall constitute the Executive Board of the Southport Historical Society.

ARTICLE VI - ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. All officers and directors shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual meeting of the Society.

Section 2. Not less than two months prior to the annual meeting, the Executive Board shall appoint from the membership a Nominating Committee of three members, which committee shall make nominations for all vacancies to be voted on and installed at the annual meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

Section 3. A person who has been elected for two consecutive terms shall not be elected to the same office unless one year elapses between the end of his last term and the beginning of the term for which he is nominated.

Section 4. Officers and directors shall be installed at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected and shall serve until their successors have been duly elected and installed. In the event of a vacancy, the vacancy may be filled by the Executive Board until the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of those voting, provided notice was given at the previous meeting. Or it may be amended at a special meeting called for the purpose, with previous notice and a two-thirds vote. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing.

DATE APPROVED: _____

BY-LAWS OF SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Anyone interested in the history of Southport and surrounding area who applies for membership in any category established by the Society's constitution and who tenders the necessary dues shall thereupon become a member.

Section 2. Categories and dues are as follows:

Individual	\$10.00 annually
Husband and wife	15.00 annually
Student (through high school)	2.00 annually
Business, institutional, club or professional	15.00 annually
Sustaining	25.00 annually
Life (individual)	100.00
Life (husband and wife)	150.00

Section 3. Annual dues shall be payable in advance, and members in arrears more than six months after payment is due shall be dropped from membership. Persons joining after July 1 shall be members through the following calendar year.

ARTICLE II - SCHEDULE AND QUORUM
FOR MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Society shall be held four times a year - in January, April, June and September, on dates as set by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the president.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall meet as necessary.

Section 4. A majority of members present and voting shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE III - DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. The president shall have supervision over the activities of the Society within the scope provided for in these by-laws. He shall preside at all meetings of the Society and Executive Board. He shall report annually on the activities of the Society. He shall appoint members of all committees not otherwise provided for.

Section 2. The vice president shall assume the duties of the president in the absence or resignation of the president. The vice president shall serve as Membership Chairman and Public Relations Chairman.

Section 3. The secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the Society and Executive Board, maintain a list of members, handle the correspondence of the Society as assigned by the Executive Board, and send out notices of meetings when necessary.

Section 4. The treasurer shall be responsible for the safekeeping of the funds of the Society and for maintaining adequate financial records; shall deposit all monies received by him promptly with a reliable banking institution in the name of the Southport Historical Society; and all monies paid out shall be by numbered checks signed by the treasurer, or the secretary in the absence of the treasurer. The treasurer shall render an annual written account to the Society, such to be included in the January issue of

THE WHITTLERS' BENCH, the Society newsletter. A statement of projected expenditures for the ensuing year shall also be included with the said financial statement. Disbursements in excess of \$50.00 at any given time shall be made only upon authorization of the Executive Board or by a majority vote of those present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the Society.

Section 5. The archivist-librarian shall be responsible for collecting, maintaining, arranging and filing books, manuscripts, photographs, journals, newspapers, and all other historical source materials belonging to the Society. He shall also be responsible for making all historical source materials available to the public as authorized and provided for by the Executive Board.

Section 6. The editor of "Whittlers Bench" shall be responsible for writing, publishing and mailing an issue of the newsletter at least one week in advance of each regular meeting of the Society and at other times as requested by the Executive Board. Contributions to the newsletter on any historical or genealogical subject are welcome at all times. The editor shall be the sole judge of when these shall be used and may edit any submitted manuscript to fit the space available.

Section 7. The three elected directors shall serve as the Program Committee.

ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The executive board shall have the power to conduct emergency affairs of the Society not acted upon at a general or special meeting.
annually

Section 2. The executive board shall/determine the projected expenditures for the ensuing year, such to be a part of the treasurer's financial report in January. The executive board shall also annually appoint two members of the society to make an audit of the treasurer's records and report at the January meeting.

Section 3. At any meeting of the executive board five members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V - COMMITTEES

Section 1. The society shall have the following standing committees:

1. Publications Committee - responsible for finding ways and means for publishing joint or individual research studies or other books authorized by the Society.

2. Publicity Committee, - responsible for keeping the work of the Society before the public through newspapers, radio and television.

3. Cemetery Committee - responsible for the establishment and supervision of a Cemetery Endowment Fund for the purpose of preserving and providing special care on repairs, maintenance and conservation of the Old Smithville Burying Ground, the Morse Cemetery, and the John Smith Cemetery. The Committee shall also serve as advisors to the Executive Board which will be the Trustees of the Endowment Fund. The capital of the Endowment Fund will remain in trust, with only the interest derived therefrom to be spent and must be spent on the mentioned cemeteries.

4. Genealogy Committee - responsible for the promotion and encouragement of members in researching their own genealogy, and encouraging research about the families of long-ago Southport (Smithville).

5. Old Jail - responsible for the care, maintenance, and use of the Old Jail. Plans shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval, or to the Society in regular meeting, if the Committee or Board deems it necessary.

6. Heritage Garden - responsible for the care, maintenance and promotion of interest in the Benjamin Smith Memorial Garden located on the grounds of the Old Jail, and shall work with the Old Jail Committee in planning for space to be used for the Garden.

7. Nominating Committee - responsible for making nominations of officers and directors of the Society for election at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

8. Social Committee - responsible for arranging appropriate meeting places, making the meeting room comfortable, making members and guests feel welcome at the meetings, and for making arrangements for refreshments or meals at the various meetings and other functions of the Society.

Section 2. The president shall appoint members and chairmen of the standing committees, except the nominating committee which shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

Section 3. All other committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the president, as directed by the Executive Board or the Society in session.

ARTICLE VI - OTHER

Section 1. No part of this organization's funds shall inure to the benefit of any of its officers, directors or members, or any other private individual.

Section 2. In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the Society shall be turned over to the Brunswick County Public Library, an exempt organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE VII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Society, except in such cases as are governed by the Constitution and these By-laws.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Society by a majority vote, provided notice was given at the previous meeting. Or they may be amended at a special meeting called for that purpose, with previous notice and a majority vote. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing.

JAMES RABON, CHAIRMAN
ABBIE BITNEY
PAULINE SWAIN
SUSAN CARSON, EX-OFFICIO

29 Oct. 1987