

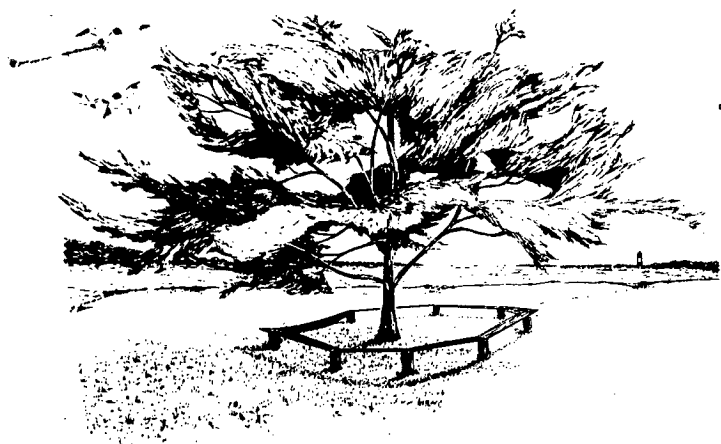
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THE WHITTLERS BENCH

Southport Historical Society

501 North Atlantic Avenue
Southport, North Carolina 28461

Vol. XVI No. 2 March 26, 1992



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 26, 1992 in room number 111 of the Brunswick Community College on Lord Street.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Lynn Buckman, a former instructor at Cape Fear Community College. He holds a degree in History and Anthropology and is known for his seminars on Forensic Archeology and Anthropology. Mr. Buckman will share with us some of the treasures he has located in this area.

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us. Also, with a little luck the first showing of our bicentennial quilt.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

DESPERATE! Is there anyone that is willing to do occasional typing? Letters, Grant Packages, By-Laws, etc.

FINAL NOTICE

REMINDER: Dues are past due in case you haven't paid. This may be your last issue of the news letter should we not hear from "you all".

OVER

1992 DUES

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

- \$10 INDIVIDUAL
- \$15 HUSBAND/WIFE
- \$25 SUSTAINING
- \$150/200 LIFE
- \$ _____ DONATION

MAIL TO: Southport Historical Society
501 North Atlantic Avenue
Southport, NC 28461

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ENDANGERED HISTORIC WOOD BUILDING, CA 1810

During February, Dan Tucker and Don Johnson reviewed proposals to conduct a Historic Structures Report. A contract was awarded to Mr. Edward F. Turberg, Restoration Consultant from Wilmington. This contract will be funded in part by a matching grant through the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Historic Structures Report will provide for technical advice, moving plans, preservation recommendations, historic research development, structural stabilization planning, specifications for protection and projected use of the building.

In addition, bids to move the building to Southport are being solicited. If you know of anyone that would be interested, please contact Don Tucker, 457-9270 or Eleanor Smith, 457-6118.

FOUNDERS WEEKEND

Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31 will be celebrated with relatives of early settlers. The Southport Historical Society is sponsoring this event as part of Southport's Bicentennial.

A special mailing has been sent to all known decedents and to all out-of-the-area society members. If you know of anyone that hasn't been contacted, please pass the names to Susie Carson (919)457-6940.

"We" will be hosting the event in the Community Building and you are encouraged to participate, assist in greeting visitors, record discussions of the "olden days", learn more about the town's history (and gossip) and help make the weekend a big success.

SPRING PICNIC AT MOORES CREEK BATTLEFIELD PARK

The Old New Hanover Genealogical Society sends greetings and extends an invitation to join them at their Spring Picnic. The picnic will be held in Patriots Hall, at Moores Creek National Battlefield Park, at 11:00 o'clock on Saturday, 16 May 1992. The agenda is as follows:

- 11:00 o'clock - Speaker: Revolutionary War in Southeastern NC
- 12:00 o'clock - Picnic Lunch
- 1:15 o'clock - Speaker: Battle of Moores Creek
- 1:45 o'clock - Battlefield Tour

We ask that attendees bring a picnic dish. Drinks, plates, etc, will be available. We also ask that you give us a call by May 1st if you expect to attend.

Patriots Hall is a comfortable building that will accomodate a large crowd either rain or shine. We plan an enjoyable and an informative get-together, and hope to see you on the 16th and to hear from you by May 1st.

Old New Hanover Genealogical Society
P O Box 25361
Wilmington, NC 28402-2536

"Looking Back" - The History Page

Susan Carson, Editor

March 1992



BICENTENNIAL YEAR: I'll bet you have already heard this is Southport's Bicentennial Year! Well, just a reminder of all the celebrating that is going on during the year. AND ALSO to ask your help. As a project for the year I hope you will work with me in gathering up items that will help preserve our past. Search your attic, picture albums, scrapbooks, closets, dresser drawers and wherever you might tuck things away and see what you can find. Just think of all the Spring cleaning that would bring on!

Look for pictures, letters, diaries, programs, school report cards, or any printed memorabilia that can be copied. I am particularly interested in items from World War I and II. Anything we can copy we will do so and return the original to you. Call me and tell me what you have. If we get enough response we can have a special day set up where these things can be photographed or Xeroxed and returned to you while you wait. We will even serve refreshments while you wait. At one time the Historical Society had a fine collection of pictures obtained in just this way, but they have disappeared. Wouldn't it be great if they would just appear again, even under mysterious circumstances.

This is something we could do to make sure that future historians don't miss what was important to us in Southport.

By the time you get this you will have seen (and, I hope, preserved) a copy of the special supplement to the State Port Pilot about our history. We congratulate the State Port Pilot on doing this. It took a lot of work, but it sure means a lot to all of us.

On the following page there is an article about the old days in Southport, by Elnora H. ("Nonie") Rogers. I know you will enjoy it. I also hope that it will give you ideas of what you, too, can contribute to "Looking Back".

I would appreciate it if you will suggest subjects that you would like for us to write about on the History Page. All it takes is a postcard addressed to the Editor of the History Page, mailed to 501 North Atlantic Avenue, Southport, N. C. 28461 - or a telephone call to (919) 457-6940. We want the readers to enjoy our publication. And maybe I would just like to hear from you - either criticism, or praise, or whatever!

SOUTHPORT HISTORY CLASSES TO BEGIN: Classes in Southport History, focusing on the period of 1887 when the town's name was changed, through at least 1920, will begin on Monday night, March 16 at 7 P. M. at the Southport Campus of Brunswick Community College. There will be day classes featuring the same material. These will begin on Wednesday, March 18 at 10 A. M., same location. The textbook to be used is Southport/Smithville: A Chronology, Volume II, by Bill Reaves. The books are not required for the classes, but if you wish to purchase them they are available at The Curiosity Shop and through the Southport Historical Society's President or Vice President.

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GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

Since our last newsletter, one of our members, Mrs. Julie Lambeth of Winston-Salem, has made a most generous gift to the Society to be applied to the moving of the old log building. We are very grateful for this gift.

Knowing our interest in obtaining photographs of all those who served as jailers while our Old Jail Headquarters was used as the Brunswick County Jail, Mr. Elisha Sellers, Jr. of Whiteville has presented the Society with a photograph of his father, Elisha Sellers, Sr., who served as jailer. We are not sure of the dates - probably late 20's or very early 30's, but we are in the process of obtaining a list of jailers and dates they served. We are also working on a list of those who served as sheriff during the time the Old Jail was in use. If you have any information that will help, please let us know.

NEW MEMBERS: While the History Page is an unlikely place to make a list of new members, do let us use this bit of space to welcome to membership in our Society: Mr. and Mrs. Frederick G. Doshier (Life); Mr. and Mrs. James M. Harper, Jr.; Mrs. Betty Arnold Hewett; Mrs. Mayzel L. Keith; Mrs. Margaret Leverett; Mrs. Susan Liese; Mrs. Mary Catherine Marlowe; Mrs. Mary Anne Russ; Mrs. Mary Lewis Russ; Mrs. Doris H. Schulze; Mrs. Judy W. Thompson; Mr. and Mrs. D. I. Watson; and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Watson. It is so good to have new members. We hope you will enjoy your membership in the Society.

LATER: WOW! I just realized I left off a very important name, an Old Southporter at that! The name is Sarah A. McNeil, better known as Sally. Please forgive me, Sally. And welcome to the Society.



Genealogy



Abbie Bitney

1920 Census opens in March

On Texas Independence Day, that is March the 2nd for non Texans, the National Archives and Records Administration opened to the public the microfilmed copies of the 1920 federal population census schedules and soundex. Federal census schedules are closed to the public for a period of seventy-two years.

National Archives Microfilm Rental Program is now processing orders for the films on a rental basis. The libraries in the local area, Southport-Brunswick County Library, Learning Center at Brunswick Community College, and the New Hanover County library all have copies of these films on order, but have not received the film yet. The Southport-Brunswick County Library will have the film on hand only for Brunswick County, but can borrow for your use any other county from the State Library. The other two libraries will have on hand films for the entire state of North Carolina. In order to view and research in other states ask the librarian in your usual library to order for you on the Rental Program.

The 1920 census (National Archives Microfilm Publication T625) consists of 2,076 rolls of population schedules. The census schedules are arranged by state, thereunder by county, and finally by enumeration district. The states are arranged alphabetically, and followed by Alaska, Guam and American Samoa, Hawaii, military and naval forces, the Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Island. There was no separate Indian schedule for 1920. There will be a catalog of the census rolls in the library to help you know exactly what film you should order. You must know where your family lived in 1920.

The format and information in the 1920 census schedules closely resemble that of the 1910 census; however, there are several differences important to genealogists. One significant bit of added new information includes the year of naturalization for persons who were foreign-born. Also, questions about citizenship apply to women and children where previously they had applied only to foreign-born males over 21.

Because of the changes in some boundaries following World War I, enumerators were instructed to report the province (state or region) or city of persons declaring they or their parents had been in Austria-Hungary, Germany, Russia, or Turkey.



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SATURDAY, 16 MAY 1992 OLD NEW HANOVER GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL PICNIC WITH GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES FROM SE
NORTH CAROLINA AT MOORES CREEK BATTLEFIELD PARK.

11:00 - SPEAKER: "PRELUDE TO MOORES CREEK: THE COMING OF THE
REVOLUTION IN THE LOWER CAPE FEAR" BY DR. ALAN D. WATSON,
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT
WILMINGTON.

12:00 - PICNIC: FAMILY PICNIC. PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE
PICNIC DISH AND SHARE. DRINKS AND PAPER PRODUCTS WILL BE
PROVIDED.

1:30 - SPEAKER: "THE BATTLE OF MORES CREEK," BY DUSTY SCHULTZ
OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

2:00 - TOUR: TOUR OF THE BATTLEFIELD WITH A MUSKET
DEMONSTRATION.

DR. WATSON IS A NOTED COLONIAL HISTORICAL WHOSE LATEST BOOK,
WILMINGTON: PORT OF NORTH CAROLINA, HAS RECENTLY BEEN PUBLISHED.

(REMINDER FROM ABBIE, THIS IS THE GROUP WE HOSTED IN FRANKLIN
SQUARE PARK AND WERE THE SECOND OF THEIR ANNUAL PICNIC AFFAIRS.)

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RAMBLINGS ON SOUTHPORT

by

Elnora H. Rogers

(better known as "Nonie")

Summer days in Southport have always been sweet days. At the turn of the century it was too, as it is now.

Most of the males gathered on the waterfront at the Cedar Bench. Their excuse was to get out of the way, but also to be out of the women's hearing. They discussed births, sickness and deaths. When these subjects had been well covered, fishing, clamming and oystering were next, and the pattern has continued 'till this day! All this was carried on with the use of tobacco in any form. . Blame that vice on the Indians. As soon as they'd taught the white man to hunt, fish and grow tobacco, they were run away from the coast. I guess the white man left his conscience in Europe. We had one or two small stores on the waterfront, so there was no need to run out of tobacco.

The women were usually home, very busy with children, gardens, chickens or cows. Somehow these jobs fell to the little women! Did this, too, come from the Indians? Most homes then had fences made either of wood or wire, in yards for children, gardens, animals and clothes lines. You could always tell who had a juicy morsel of gossip to "pass over the fence" by who hung out her clothes first. We had no Ma Bell then, but by the time the clothes were flapping on the line, so were the tongues all over town. News is like a thistle - it travels fast.

After lunch when the children were napping, the porch swing and the joggle board came into use. If some housewife had no small children at home, she'd run over to the neighbor's house to put the wraps on any gossip and to exchange receipts (recipes, to us).

We had many boarding houses in town back then and these were usually filled in summer with folks coming down the river for the salt breeze curin'. Most doctors advised this for all lung ailments. Having new folks in town, whether sick or well, was well discussed by the town residents. I've heard my mother remark how hard doctors worked with these sick ones. My mother as a young girl worked for Miss Kate Stuart at her boarding house, making beds and setting tables. After Mama and Papa were married they lived on Bay Street, then called "the river front". She has talked of watching small boats carrying workers to Caswell and how the river wind tossed them about, many near drowning.

Sundays always brought guests. Those who lived on the river front could always expect folks from "back of town" to visit. The Cape Fear has always been a magnet - a big one. The entire family went to church, holding hands, led by Mama. In church you did not talk or squirm. Mama's right hand always held a handkerchief, with a sweet shrub rolled in it, her thumb and index finger always free to pinch in case a "be still" order was disobeyed. Preachers back then seemed sooooo longwinded and bellowed out what God would do to the sinner! Children soon became aware that they'd had a full glass of milk for breakfast. How does a child sit still two and a half hours trying to ignore nature, and wondering if God did strike someone in the church if it would leave a hole in the roof? Since I've been grown and visited cemeteries, looking at stones of the very young, it has caused me to wonder "was uremic poisoning to blame?" Makes you think!

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Oh, how I wish I had taken notes or made tapes of some of my mother's stories of how she enjoyed her days on the riverfront with the Doshers, Adkins, Watts, etc. It would fill a volume.

Living on the Old Yacht Basin now, and watching our beautiful sunsets, small boats coming in, large ones going out, I thank God for our sleepy little town of Southport.