

THE
WHITTLERS BENCH
Southport Historical Society

501 North Atlantic Avenue
Southport, North Carolina 28461

Volume XXII, No. 4 July 1998



In Memorium

Garfield "Gary" Potts of Fort Worth died on April 19. Gary was one of the men who served on the *John D. Gill* that was torpedoed off Southport during the early days of World War II. He was present when the monument was dedicated on the waterfront and he and his wife also made a later visit to Southport. Gary was very thankful for all the kindness shown to him by the citizens of Southport both during the war and the events surrounding the placing of the marker.

OLD JAIL

Once again the Old Jail will be the center of our effort for the 4th of July. Please call Marilyn Lessin at 457-0004 to see when she needs volunteers.

Thur July 2

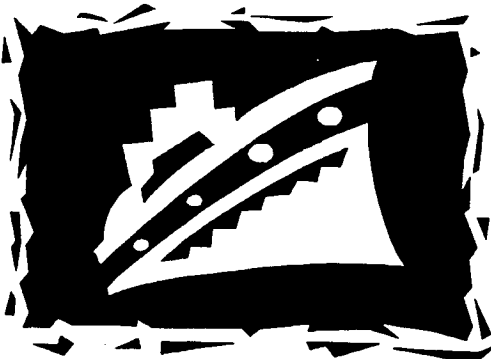
Fri July 3 *OPEN 1:00 to 4:00*

Sat July 4

Plan to stop by during the festival



Cruise UPDATE



program: Fri evening Sept 26
"Blockade Runners"
Charles Peery, MD

cruise: Sat afternoon Sept 27
with Charles Peery &
Chris Fonvielle

Mark your calendar NOW. . .
and get the details in the next newsletter !!



A Horse Ride Through "The Cottage" with Nellie

by John Swain, native of Southport

Living in the city of Southport most kids never knew what a thrill it was to climb up on a horse cart and take a long ride through the woods. When I was about seven years old my grandparents lived on a farm. Back in these days it seemed to me such a long way to get to their farm. I guess it took about an hour and a half to get there. Grandpa had a horse whose name was Nellie and she was his only means of getting to Southport at that time. Nellie was used to plow the fields and pull the wagon to town about once a month to buy his groceries for Grandma. They would buy in large quantities such as a barrel of flour and a barrel of sugar, etc. He would hitch old Nellie to the cart early in the morning in order to make the trip and be back on the farm before dark.

Grandpa would travel through the area that was known as "The Cottage" and he and Nellie would come out on the other side of town. Part of what was "The Cottage" is now made up of streets with houses and it would be hard to find any horse cart tracks. Today a person could travel on Highway 211 and be at the old farm in about ten minutes. Wit Fullwood's parents lived on what is now 211 and we would turn beside his place to reach Grandpa's farm.

Sometimes I would count the days until Grandpa would hitch up old Nellie to come to town because I knew I would get to ride on the wagon with him back to the farm. I will always remember waking up the next morning to the smell of country ham cooking in the kitchen. Back in those days Grandma made molasses cookies for the children and would put them in the cupboard. She would put the legs of the cupboard in cans of water to keep the ants from eating the cookies. It was always a lot of fun to go to the farm and after staying a few days, my folks would come and get me on Sunday. I guess these are some of the things I will always remember even though I always lived in town.

Oh, yes, Nellie lived a long life and when she died Grandpa buried her on the farm.

Growing Up in Southport

by Thelma Sellers Dunn

Growing up in Southport was a very easy life. Everyone knew most people in town, especially if they had children in school.

On summer nights several children would meet behind the old courthouse and play hide and seek around the old oak trees until time to go home and go to bed. We did most of our playing as groups not trying to see what we could destroy.

There was a sand hill located in an area just off West West Street where the children played cowboys and Indians (there is a street there now).

"The Oak Grove" was a favorite place to play under the trees which is the area we know today as Franklin Park. We would take rakes with us and rake up the leaves into "walls" of a make-believe house. When we were thirsty we could pump water from the well.

It was also a treat to go to Watson's Pharmacy for ice cream. The "soda jerk" was Johnny Simmons who liked to make up different mixtures. My favorite was orange-pineapple cream, which Johnny named "Moonlite cocktail."

We had to use our imagination in the "good ole days" because we did not have a lot of money for expensive toys.

Southport Historical Society, Inc

Treasurer's Report for May, 1998

Cash flow in May showed positive results with a net gain of \$1,491.16, compared with April when we experienced a net loss of \$50.82. The May increase was in part the result of the Margaret Rudd Yard Sale, which netted \$630.34. Book sales continue strong.

We expect the new book, *Southport Secrets*, to be delivered during June; the printing cost is expected to be around \$2,900.

Transfers to the Cemetery Fund, based on cash donations and sales of the Cemetery book, will be made following the July 4th week-end. On May 31, the amount to be transferred stood at \$70.18.

Monthly treasurer's reports are regularly submitted to the Board of Directors. Any member of the Historical Society, however, may request a copy at any time by contacting the treasurer at the Society address.

W. Furstenau
Treasurer

Book Committee Report

The new 98-page book, *Southport Secrets*, relating to the Bicentennial Heritage Quilt, is being printed. We expect to have copies available sometime in June 1998.

Southport Chronology, Vol. II is nearly sold out, with about 6 copies remaining. All material for a reprint, including new title and front matter pages, a bar-coded ISBN film master for the back cover, is ready. Cost estimates were obtained earlier in the year.

Estimates to reprint the book *Bald Head* by Stick are being compiled. An alternate source for copies is Bald Head Island Management. A cost-comparison will be made.

Work on the new edition of *Fort Caswell* is, according to spokesmen from the Baptist Assembly, still in process. A projected January release was missed. A mid-summer release is expected.

The Southport Historical Society pamphlet *Historic Southport* was revised. The telephone area code was changed to 910, and the book page was updated. A reprint of 250 copies was done on May 7, 1998.

A block of ISBNs (International Standard Book Number) has been secured. Every book published by the Southport Historical Society now has an assigned ISBN.

The Book Page

Southport Historical Society is actively engaged in publishing books dealing with the history of the lower Cape Fear. Works listed below are available for sale by the Society, and at book stores in the area.

Architecture of Southport, by Carl Lounsbury. Southport Historical Society, second printing 1966, 62 pp., soft-cover. \$15.00. The styles of old Southport homes are described and illustrated.

Cap'n Charlie and the Lights of the Lower Cape Fear, by Ethel Herring. Southport Historical Society, fourth printing 1995, 120 pp, ill., soft-cover. \$10.00.

The Cemeteries of Southport, compiled by Dorcas W. Schmidt. Southport Historical Society, 1983, 94 pp., soft-cover. \$8.00. A unique reference book listing names of those buried in the cemeteries of Southport and environs.

Fort Caswell in War and Peace, by Ethel Herring and Carolee Williams. Published by Broadfoot's Bookmark, Wendell, North Carolina, 1983. 138 pp., ill., hard-cover. Sold out. New edition expected in mid-1998.

A History of Brunswick County, by Lawrence Lee. Published by Brunswick County, Bolivia, North Carolina. 1980, 279 pp., ill., hard-cover, \$18.30

A History of Fort Johnston, by Wilson Angley. Includes index. Published by Southport Historical Society, in association with the Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1996, 150 pp., ill., soft-cover. \$10.00.

Joshua's Dream, a history of old Southport by Susan S. Carson. First printing published by Carolina Power & Light Company in 1992, second printing published by Southport Historical Society, 1994. 168 pp., ill., soft-cover. \$15.00.

Long Beach, A North Carolina Town: Its Origin and History, by Wolfgang Furstenau. Published by the author in Long Beach, NC. 1995, 2. printing 1997, 364 pp., ill., hard-cover, \$17.95

Southport (Smithville), A Chronology, Volume I, 1520-1887, by Bill Reaves. Published by Broadfoot Publishing Company: Wilmington, North Carolina, 1978. Second edition 1985, 129 pp., ill., soft-cover. \$15.00.

Southport (Smithville), A Chronology, Volume II, 1887-1920, by Bill Reaves. Published by Southport Historical Society, Southport, North Carolina, 1978. Second edition 1990, 324 pp., ill., soft-cover. \$20.00.

Southport-Brunswick County, North Carolina, Volume III, 1920-1940, A Chronology by Bill Reaves. Published by Southport Historical Society, Southport, North Carolina, 1996, 248 pp., 46-page index, ill., soft-cover. First edition. \$12.00.

Southport Secrets, compiled by Donald K. Johnson. Published by Southport Historical Society, Southport, NC. 1998, 88 pp., ill., soft-cover. Available mid-1998.

Note: Membership entitles you to purchase these books from the Society at a 10% discount. Please include \$2.00 per book for mail orders.



The Southport Maritime Museum has arranged for an exhibit of artifacts from Blackbeard's shipwreck, *Queen Anne's Revenge*, which can be seen July 2 & 3 from 10:00 to 4:00 and on the 4th the exhibit will open AFTER the parade. Good job, Mary!!

Coming next newsletter:

- Civil War article on Cushing's Effort to Capture Blockade Runners provided by Suzie Holtz
- Article on the role of Brunswick County soldiers in Civil War by Norwood Brooks
- Information on "The 1998 Wilmington Racial Violence and Its Legacy" symposium at UNC-W, October 23-24

cut here and send form with your check

New Membership Registration

Join the Southport Historical Society and receive the newsletter on a regular basis

individual	\$10	student	\$2	business/organization	\$15
couple	15	(up to age 18)	sustaining	25

life membership \$ 150

life membership for couple \$ 200

name (please print) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

telephone _____

send to: 501 North Atlantic Avenue, Southport, NC 28461