



NEWSLETTER

BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOX 874, SHALLOTTE, N. C. 28459

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF LELAND, N.C.-1978 **Lucille Dresser Blake**

The name Leland came into existence when in the latter part of 1897 the people in the area petitioned the Post Office Department in Washington for a local post office. Mr. Joseph W. Gay spearheaded the movement, and the Post Office Department sent him a list of names from which to choose a name for the new post office. Among them was the name Leland, also the name of his nephew, Leland Adams. This name was selected and the new post office was officially opened 10 Feb. 1898 with Joseph W. Gay as postmaster. It was in a corner of Gay's General Store. On 27 August 1906 Mrs. Lizzie Gay Adams was appointed postmistress. Through the years there have been twelve postmasters or as the case may be postmistresses.

Through the years one by one of the small postoffices were discontinued and the mail routed to the Leland Post Office. The El Paso P.O. was discontinued 31 Dec. 1909. On May 31, 1911, the Malmo P.O. was discontinued. 15 June 1926 the Lanvale P.O. was discontinued. 15 June 1928 Eastbrook P.O. was discontinued. Phoenix was discontinued 30 April 1938. Town Creek was discontinued 31 March 1931. As you can see the Leland Post Office covers a large territory now, down U.S. 17 to Town Creek and up Northwest way to the county line.

This area was settled with the earliest plantations being along the Cape Fear River. The Old Town area of beautiful homes was once Buchoi Plantation owned by Alfred Moore.

Belvidere Plantation, once the home of Governor Benjamin Smith, is the housing development of Belvidere Heights.

Belville Plantation is now the Incorporated area of Belville. Near Belville was a Post Office named Easy Hill that opened 2 April 1879 and was discontinued 4 November 1889.

From Woodburn Plantation, once owned by Dr. Thomas Wood, evolved the Woodburn area with Woodburn Presbyterian Church and Woodburn Baptist Church being name for it.

The Elah area was once incorporated as Myrtle in 1903 to meet requirements that a whiskey still could be operated only in incorporated towns. The charter was repealed in 1905, and the community took its name from the Elah Baptist Church.

Malmo was named of Malmo, Sweden and has its own Post Office opened 4 December 1885 and was discontinued 31 May 1911. The late Mrs. Mamie McFarland (who lived there as a girl) told me the origin of its name.

Battle Royal was so named for a Revolutionary War skirmish.

Maco was once called Farmers Turnout, it also had a Post Office that was established 24 June 1875 and discontinued 25 Feb. 1895. Maco is the home of the famous Joe Baldwin Ghost.

Northwest had a Post Office that was short lived, opened 14 March 1901 and discontinued 15 Feb. 1910. In the same Northwest Community we find there were several early postoffices; Lockhaven established 4 November 1901 and discontinued 29 January 1903, Onion established 8 June 1885 and discontinued 21 April 1898, Meares Bluff was established 29 July 1875 and discontinued 21 January 1826. Blue Banks Plantation once owned by Roger Moore, William Dry and Benjamin Smith is now a Tree Farm owned by the Blake brothers, Wesley and Anthony. Auburn, Magnolia and Mulberry Plantations were once where the DuPont plant is located today.

Near Hood's Creek is Point Repose Plantation once owned by James Murry and Revolutionary War General Thomas Clark; also Louisiana Plantation owned by the Lock and Robbins family.

Hail Point, Dollisons and Schawfields were among the plantations above Navassa.

As the area grew in population new roads were developed. In 1911 the road from Leland to Brunswick River was called the Village Road. Then it became U. S. 74-76. Now it is back a local road. U. S. 74-76 bypasses the area with a new four lane highway.

In 1928 a new brick high school replaced the former wooden structure. This also consolidated several little one room schools. Now we have a new North Brunswick High School built in 1973 and a new Leland Middle School finished in 1978.

Leland once revolved around the school, postoffice and railroad station. The school has gone, the railroad station is gone, but the postoffice remains as does the Southport-Brunswick County Branch Library. Leland has spread now with the Leland Shopping Center below Woodburn. This consists of Parker's Food Store, Town Pharmacy, Mack 's Variety Store, Waccamaw Branch Bank, Security Savings and Loan, Macs Auto Supply, a dentist Dr. Walter Futch, a real estate office, a mattress factory and an insurance office. Mac's Furniture Store has been in the area for more than twenty years. There are two local restaurants specializing in seafood, Harold's Fish Camp and Pier 20. Lee Oil Company has been serving the area for a number of years. The Leland Baptist Church has built a new church and Parsonage next door to the Woodburn Presbyterian Church. The whole area is growing by leaps and bounds. Above Leland, on the four lane highway, you will find Estes Motor Lines, Swisdale Mfg. Co., Salisbury Laboratories, and a creosoting plant all new to the area. This just names a few. The whole area of Northwest Township has a large tax base.

I have lived here for fifty eight years and think it is such a nice place to live that I hope to live here until called to the Great Beyond. Three of our four children also own homes in this area.

Bibliography:

Brunswick County Historical Newsletter - Feb. 1974
The North Carolina Gazatteer by William S. Powell - 1968
Telephone conversation with Mrs. W. G. Adams, Leland, N.C.

THE FORMATION OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Brunswick was formed in 1794 from New Hanover and Bladen. It was named in honor of the House of Brunswick of which the four Georges, Kings of England, belonged. It is in the southeastern section of the State and is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the Cape Fear River, and Columbus, Pender and New Hanover countries. The present area is 873 square miles and the population is 17,125. Brunswick, established in 1745, was made a borough town in 1754, and when Brunswick County was established in 1764 it was made the county seat. In 1779 the county seat was authorized to be moved to the plantation of John Bell near Lockwood's Folly Bridge. In 1784 Walkersburg named in honor John Walker on whose land it was situated, was established. Provisions were made in the act for a court house and other public buidings to be established there. It was located at Deep Water Point. This act specified that the courts were to be held at the most convenient place until the courthouse was completed.

It is doubtful that the act was put into effect because in 1808 an act was passed authorizing the removal of the courthouse from Lockwood's Folly to Smithville. Court was held at the courthouse from 1805-1810. The record does not

indicate where the courthouse was. From April 1810 to 1858 court was held at the courthouse in Smithville. This town, established in 1792, was named in honor of Benjamin Smith, governor of North Carolina, 1810-1811. In 1879 an effort to move the courthouse failed. In 1887 Smithville was changed to Southport.

-The Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1943
David LeRoy Corbitt - Raleigh, 1950

OFFICERS ELECTED NOV. 13, 1978

President - Jim Register
Vice President - Lucille Blake
Sec.-Treas. - Lottie Ludlum
Board Members - Bob Russell
Helen Taylor

ARMED RESISTANCE AT BRUNSWICK

On November 28 (1765) the British sloop Diligence arrived at Brunswick with an assignment of stamps and stamped paper, but as there was no Stamp Master in the province, the stamps remained aboard ship. The situation became more acute in January, 1766, when two merchant ships, the Dobbs and the Patience, came into Brunswick and were seized by Captain Lobb of the British VIPER, because their clearance papers were not stamped. Indignant at this seizure, the people of Wilmington refused to sell supplies to the King's ships, seized a "contractor's vessel", and threw its crew in jail. The attorney general's decision in February that Lobb's seizures were legal and that the two vessels which he had detained should be sent to Nova Scotia for legal proceedings, was signal for armed resistance. On February 18 a meeting in Wilmington of "principal gentlemen, freeholders, and inhabitants" of several counties of the Province elected leaders and signed an agreement that "We will at any risk ... unite.. in preventing entirely the operation of the Stamp Act." Among the leaders were Hugh Waddell, John Ashe, and Cornelius Harnett. The next day several hundred armed patriots marched to Brunswick, posted a guard around the governor's residence, and after an altercation with him, broke open the collector's desk and took the papers of the seized vessels, and so threatened Fort Johnson that its guns were spiked.

On February 20, after armed reinforcements had augmented their forces to nearly 1,000 men, a group of "insurgents" boarded the VIPER and compelled the captain to release the seized vessels. Thenceforth ships entered and cleared the Cape Fear without hindrance - and without stamps.

On the morning of February 21, a large armed body approached the Governor's house to secure Comptroller Pennington, who had taken refuge there - supposedly under Tryon's bed. At first Tryon declined to part with his guest, but Cornelius Harnett, courageous leader of the Patriots and the "Pride of the Cape Fear", standing face to face and eye to eye with the Governor, declared

that the people would take Pennington by force if he were longer detained. Tryon was firm, but Pennington resign his office, went with Harnett and the "inhabitants in arms" into the main part of town, and in a circle of cheering patriots took oath, along with all other public officials there, except the Governor, that he would never issue any stamped paper in North Carolina.

These armed Sons of Liberty, comprising the gentlemen, planters, and merchants of Brunswick, New Hanover, Duplin, and Bladen counties, returned in triumph to their houses. They had preserved their liberties by organized, open, orderly and successful resistance to the enforcement of the Stamp Act. In no other colony was the resistance by force so well organized and executed. American protests, armed resistance, the failure of the tax to bring in the anticipated revenue, and the protests of British merchants and manufacturers led Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act in 1766.

-North Carolina: The History of a Southern State
Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome
U. of N. C. Press, Chapel Hill, 1954

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12th at the Shallotte Presbyterian Church at 8:00 pm.
The Speaker will be William G. Faulk, Jr. Director
State Historic Site of Brunswick