



NEWSLETTER

BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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EARLY BAPTIST CHURCHES OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY

The earliest Baptist Church in Brunswick County was organized by Ezekiel Hunter who came from Onslow County in 1762. He held services at a meeting house by Lockwood's Folly River and baptized a few charter members. He was followed by Reverend James Turner, who successfully led a congregation until his death.

This Lockwood's Folly Church grew and was served by Elder William Godwin of Duplin County from 1788 to 1793. Abram Baker of Pitt County moved to Brunswick County and agreed to serve this Church if it could be reorganized, and this was done in 1787. After a period of growth, the members were divided; some moved and organized a new Church by the Waccamaw River. Mill Creek Baptist Church also grew from this Lockwood's Folly Church.

Lockwood's Folly congregation moved to a new location on Stone Chimney Road where, two miles south of Supply, a frame Building was provided and was still in use in 1818.

Records covering the period of 1820-1888 were destroyed by fire.

By 1876 this Baptist congregation was using a larger frame building which was located approximately two miles west of the old site. This Church was named Mount Pisgah and was served by Reverend J.P. Lennon until 1880. Some other early ministers of this Church were:

Reverend J.A. Mintz-----1890 to 1893
Reverend A.W. Carter-----1893 to 1898
Reverend D.L. Hewett-----1898 to 1901
Reverend Joseph Bennett---1901 to 1902
Reverend D.L. Hewett-----1902 to 1904
Reverend E.L. Swain-----1904 to 1905
Reverend D.L. Hewett-----1906 to 1910
Reverend P.T. Britt-----1910 to 1915
Reverend W.A. Coleman--1915 to 1916

Reverend J. I. Stone ----- 1916 to 1917

It was during the ministry of Reverend J. I. Stone that the scheduled religious services were increased to two each month.

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church has a complete record of the ministers that have served this Church since 1888.

Clerks who served without remuneration are:

- A. B. Cæmmons, one year
- Isaac Caison, three months
- Elisha Sellers, two and a half years
- L. Sellers, three years
- O. B. Sellers, ten years
- Albert Brown, three months
- W. A. Cæissett, twenty-two years
- Dennis Hewett, nine years

MILL CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Mill Creek Baptist Church dates its origin to 1776 and the years of the American Revolution. At that time a small congregation used a wood frame building located in the wooded area between the present church and the Willette Cemetery. This building was replaced by another frame building constructed by Ben Mills, Billy Mills, Ben Willetts, Monroe Hickman and others helping. They used cypress trees cut from Mill Creek Swamp and shaped into twenty-four inch blocks. Handdrawn shingles covered all sides and the roof. Posts in the center of the building supported lamps, and the floor was elevated. This second building had no heat, and the first Sunday School was held on the front steps where people could be warmer. Water was available at a spring behind the church.

The third building was erected in 1911 on the property now occupied by the parsonage. This larger building was weather-boarded and had a rostrum built in a half-moon shape.

The brick building completed in 1952 stands where the old second building stood and has been enlarged to accommodate the congregation that has grown for over 200 years.

OLD SHALLOTTE BAPTIST CHURCH

The earliest Baptist Church of the Shallotte area had become inactive and inactive and was recognized as being in a state of decay. On February 4 and 5, 1837, this Church was reconstituted and afterwards became known as the Basford Meeting House Baptist Church of Shallotte. Records in the Register of Deeds Office in Bolivia show that on October 26, 1847, William Basford deeded two (2) acres of land to Shallotte Baptist Church. Also, the records show that on July 23, 1873, Elias Hewett deeded One (1) acre of land to Shallotte Baptist Church Trustees: Samuel Frink, Samuel G. Stanley, and Robert R. Millikin.

In March and April, 1905, there were discussions and motions to move the church to the new Starboard School House (Cool Run). The Church became divided and a new Church was established. The remaining members continued under the name of Shallotte Baptist Church as mentioned in the minutes of 1905. In December, 1905, a motion was made to move the church to the Seaside and Starboard Road. The vote was twelve in favor and three against. The land was donated by J. H. Fletcher Frink. Members soon had a one-room building of heart lumber. In 1925 the members built a larger one-room building beside the old one, which was sold to William Somerset and moved from the site in 1926.

The Church remained in this location and grew in membership. Wings were added in 1941 to make additional classroom space. In 1943 a steeple was constructed and a bell installed therein. In 1959 a building committee worked to start construction of a brick sanctuary. With funds on hand and a loan of \$10,000 the work began. Later contributions of materials and labor made it possible to complete this latest building project.

NOTE: Information on these three old Churches was provided by each Church and submitted to Reverend William Deitz, who has been researching and collecting in order to publish a book of Brunswick County Church Histories.

NEWS AND NOTICES

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY will be on August 11 at 8:00 pm in the Assembly Room of the Brunswick County Governmental Complex at Bolivia.

The speaker will be Dr. Jerry C. Cashion, a research supervisor in the Division of Archives and History in Raleigh.

THE RECENT PUBLICATION OF COLUMBUS COUNTY RECOLLECTIONS AND RECORDS IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO OUR Brunswick County Historical Society since the southeastern part of the present Columbus County was from 1764 to 1808 a part of Brunswick. The text, arranged by township, features families and bioghrachy; school, church and club histories; personal recollections; agricultural and industrial information. This is a hardbound book with photographs, maps, public records and an index.

Collecting and selecting the material was done by Miss Amanda Bible, Director of the Columbus County Library. Further editing was done by Ann Ward Little of Raleigh, recommended by the Division of Archives and History. MISS KELLY WILLIAMS is doing extensive research on Fort Caswell. Members of this society may wish to help her by lending old photographs or letters related to her subject. Please let your president know if you have any material to offer.

Mrs. Theodocia Cæmmons and Mrs. Gwen Causey have made considerable progress in their project of assembling information for Archives and History concerning cemeteries of Brunswick County. They will give a report for at a later date.

North Carolina's "Capital Cinema Series" has moved to Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the old House of Representatives Chamber. Historical, cultural and classical films are shown without charge.

WHO DISCOVERED AMERICA? A NEW LOOK AT AN OLD QUESTION.

The New World? Who, from the Old, first touched its shore? Historians held for centuries that it was Christopher Columbus. By current consensus, it was Norse voyagers of a thousand years ago. But perhaps it was a group of shadowy, yet very real, Irish seafaring minks who predated even the Vikings by more than four centuries.

In the great pantheon of the New World explorers no name is more intriguing, or more clouded in controversy, than that of Ireland's St. Brendan. His legend - today more tantalizing than ever - has persisted through the centuries in the form of a Christian imram, an Irish saga: Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis - Voyage of Saint Brendon the Abbot. With 17 fellow monks, it relates, Brendan sailed to Terra Repromissionis Sanctorum, the Land Promised to the Saints, somewhere beyond the far reaches of the western Atlantic.

Was the Promised Land North America? Did St. Brendan actually reach it in the sixth century/ Neither history nor archeology offers proof. Yet early mapmakers and explorers gave credence to the legend. Place-names from the Navigatio appear on later charts. and early navigators sought vainly for "St. Breddan's Isle." Fact or fantasy, the Navigatio had incalculable impact on the great European voyages of discovery.

According to the legend, St. Brendan and his fellow monks set sail from Ireland in a leather-hulled curragh: the same type of boat, now covered with tarred canvass, is still used by Irish fishermen. The voyage lasted seven years and introduced the monks to such wonders as demons who hurled fire at them, a floating crystal column, and a sea creature as great as an island. Scholars wonder today: Might they have been volcanic eruptions ... an iceberg ... a whale?

Finally, Brendan and his shipmates reached the Promised Land, a lush, lush island divided by a mighty river. Soon afterward they sailed home to Ireland, where Brendan died.

There the legend of St. Brendan ends, to be given new vitality in the 1970's by a real life sequel. In an article, British author and explorer Timothy Severin recounts his epic Atlantic crossing aboard a leather boat. In proving that such a long-ago voyage could have been made, Tim Severin and his crew have brought one of history's most intriguing tales a giant step closer to the realm of possibility.

-Clipped from current literature by Amarette Pierce