



# NEWSLETTER

BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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Mrs. Berlyn Lancaster (Lower left) with daughter and grandchildren. 1950.

## *SOME THINGS I REMEMBER AS A CHILD*

So you want to know how far back I can remember? I was born January 5, 1893 near Antioch Baptist Church on the Armond Willard farm. My father was caring for Mr. Willard's cattle that year, living in a tenant house.

The next move he made was to Southport where Herbert was born. My dad was then working on Fort Caswell. (I do not know what kind of work he did), but my mother told me that I was sick. There was no doctor there and she wanted to move back home where she was reared. I was near 3 years old but can remember the day we moved to the old Tim Phelps home he had bought.

While he was bargaining for and buying the place, we lived in part of the Oliver Sellers house for two months. It is possible that I was not three years old when we moved, but I know how the place looked. Broom grass was standing in the small clearing in front of the house. Things looked run down.

I was the fourth child; Linnie, Ledrew, and Ronie were older than I was. The house was small, but it was rebuilt as soon as the money could be raised. My daddy got a job with the Green Swamp survey. I do not recall how long he worked there. He owned a small black ox and had to buy feed for him.

He planted the little piece of cleared land and cleared more as he could. He soon bought two oxen, bought a cart to haul logs, and cut and hauled logs for saw mill, got contracts to furnish wood for the Coast Guard on Oak Island and for the light house on Bald Head Island, sold the oxen later and farmed it alone with what he owned .

After crop season in the field, we all worked at clearing land when school was out. Schools only lasted 2 months, starting in the month of October. We stayed home to dig sweet potatoes the first week in November. Then went back to finish the 2 months. We had teachers who had made the 7th grade. You can guess the teaching.

I started to school when I became seven. I learned all the letters by noon the first day ---- all but b,p,d, and q which I could not distinguish for a while. The first four schools I attended were taught by Mr. Walger Leonard who had been taught by his uncle Mr. George Leonard who taught a school for teachers in Shallotte on the site the Methodist church now stands.

He was the best teacher I ever studied under. Evidently, his unckæ was a good teacher. Mr. Walter taught us the most essential things. He made the most of the two months. We had devotionals each monring; Bible reading, singing and prayer that did not harm any of us. We enjoyed it.

The t eacher's salary was \$25.00 per month with board to pay out of that unless he stayed in a home that did not charge board. My parents did not charge, so they usually stayed at our home. One year there was no money to pay the teachers. So we had no school that year.

One year, a few of the men hired Miss Blanche Williams to teach both March and April and my sister Ronie and I walked the two miles and attended. I believe there was a pump to furnish water to drink but no t oilet there. The little building was small like our little school houge at home.

Both of the school houses were about the size of a large living room and one had an old iron heater, but we had to go in the woods around the house and pick up dead limbs, pine knots, and cut some green trees. I can recall each one who attended the school at Supply. Besides Ronie and me, there was Dave, Otto and Vera McKeithan, Floyd and Gracie Kirby, Lizzie and Fanny Galloway, Willie, Chesley, John and Wesley Sellers, Henry and Willie Clemmons, Linzie and Ethel Pigott. This teacher taught long d ivision and fractions. Our teacher at home would ask me how to review it. By that time school was out. I still think they did not know much about it and did not care to study it themselves. (To be continued)

By: Berlyn Sellers Lancaster - January 17,1976

Edited by: Gwen Causey - October 5, 1981

## CURRENT CONCERNS

The next meeting of the Brunswick County Historical Society will be August 8 at eight o'clock in the evening in the Old Courthouse at Shallotte. The program will include a presentation of North Carolina Historic Sites, using slides and information furnished by the Museum of History in Raleigh.

The preservation of the Governor Russell House is being considered by the Historic Preservation Fund, Inc., but no option on the property has been offered by the owner.

The Methodist Historical Societies are looking forward to the growth of the Museum of Methodist History at Lake Junaluska.

A new exhibit at National Archives "The Formation of the Union 1774-1789" shows fifty documents including George Washington's Account Book and some of the currency printed during the Revolution.

Last spring Brunswick Town held a three-day program of colonial living demonstrations for 600 students from the Brunswick County School System. Students observed costumed performers doing such tasks as cooking outdoors, making candles, drying food, weaving baskets, fashioning pottery, hewing and sawing wood and making shingles.

Mrs. Lucille Blake conducted a workshop on lineage and ancestor research July 19 at the Old Courthouse in Shallotte. Mrs. Gwen Causey was hostess for the workshop.

Anyone interested in a Cumberland County Abstract Census may write to Doris Anderson Askea, Post Office Box 1086, Kernersville, North Carolina 27284. A Brunswick County Census of 1850 may still be available from Mrs. Doris Thompson or Mrs. Theodocia Clemmons.

All members please take part in the sale of North Carolina historical prints. These are artistic sketches by Jerry Miller on good quality note stationery. Gwen Causey is distributing them for members to buy and to sell at \$2.50 a box. They make good gifts. Our Society is in need of proceeds from these sales.

Another proposed project to boost our finances is the sale of a quilt made by a Brunswick countian. Do we have a contributor? Besides this potential contribution, members are urged to contribute material for NEWSLETTER, to invite new members for our society, and to present suggestions for 1984 planning.

Suggestions may be communicated to the Board of Directors before our next meeting.

Helen Taylor, Director, 253-6563

Lottie Ludlum, Secretary, 287-3876

Gwen Causey, Vice-President, 754-8445

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