



NEWSLETTER

BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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SOME THINGS I REMEMBER AS A CHILD (Continued)

By
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I believe I forgot to tell you that Mr. McKeithan had a cotton gin at Supply. My parents had all the cotton ginned except the frost cotton that my mother picked and sold in the deed. Finally it went to four cents per pound. She bought cloth with it to make our clothes. They kept enough of the ginned cotton at home to make our beds, pillows, and quilt padding. Also, some were carded and spun into rolls to spin into thread for socks and stockings. Also, when times were not so rushed and the children all married, she spun thread and made lace to put on pillow slips, table covers, bureau scarfs, and center pieces.

We girls wore home knit stockings until we were almost grown. Then we wore black cotton stockings from the store. I never saw silk or rayon hose until 1916 or 1917. I got my first pair of rayon hose when my oldest son was old enough to send to the store. I sent for black hose but he got the rayon ones.

Grandpa Sellers had a tan trough that he tanned hides in to make shoes and other things leather was used for. He made lots of shoes, tanned deer hides to make shoe laces and they would last a long time. He made my mother a pair of shoes that she said she could hardly wear them out. They were durable.

There were no undertakers and dead bodies were prepared for burial at home and kept in the home until time for burial. The coffins were made by carpenters. They were made of good materials and would last a long time. I have helped prepare several bodies and helped cover the coffins with cloth.

Someone asked me to tell about the big freeze when Lockwood Folly River was frozen over. It came in January, 1918. My daddy was working at Ft. Caswell and got an order for lumber as they were building barracks to house soldiers in. He gave the order to John to fill. He and Ephriam Cumbee loaded the lumber on a small schooner at the sawmill about a mile south of Supply and started down the river.

It was terribly cold and when they got in sight of Harry Varnam's landing the water froze too hard to get the boat through. It stalled. The boat lay there a few days before it could be moved. John came home that night about 11:00 o'clock with all the mullets he wanted to bring home to us. The bag had about ½ bushel of fish in it that he picked up on the ice near the river bank.

Lots of young people would dress up in comical, put on homemade masks and go around "cooning" they called it. I never did go along with them. I was more interested in church services and entertainments at the school house. Those at school were very few, maybe once a year about Christmas. Very large crowds attended.

CURRENT CONCERNS

The next meeting of the Brunswick County Historical Society will be August 13 at eight o'clock in the Old Courthouse at Shallotte. The program will feature the Reverend Tracie Varnum who will speak on the North Carolina Lighthouses.

The state winners of the History Bowl Contest are from East Yancey Middle School in Burnsville. Teacher Helen Hughes coached the team who won three consecutive contests in Raleigh to become the first state champions.

The Society of North Carolina Archivists was organized March 9, 1984, in Chapel Hill. The purposes of the society are to promote cooperation and exchange of information among individuals and institutions interested in the preservation and use of the archival and manuscript resources of North Carolina.

Dr. Charles Joyner's book Down by the Riverside is now available at most book stores. It presents plantation life and folklore along the Waccamaw River in South Carolina before 1865.

Professor David Quinn's book on The Lost Colonists is available from the Historical Publications Section of Archives and History.

The Museum of History Associates provided 1500 eighth grade social studies teachers in public schools with a one-year subscription to the Tar Heel Junior Historian Magazine; also presented was information on the Junior Historian Program.

The Visitor Center at Elizabeth II in Manteo is being completed and tour guides are being trained.

Dr. Stanley South, formerly at Brunswick Town, was one of the recipients of the Halifax Resolves Awards for 1984. He was the first staff archaeologist for the Historic Sites Section and led the Brunswick Town excavation program and research in this area.

The Association of Historians in Eastern North Carolina met at Methodist College in Fayetteville. The afternoon session was opened by James M. Clifton of Southeastern Community College who read a paper entitled "Jehosse Island: The Antebellum South's Largest Rice Plantation".

The Archives Workshop for Beginning Genealogists is scheduled for August 16 and 17. The first eighty applicants will be accepted.

A symposium on Sir Walter Raleigh and his career is planned for 1986 when Wilson Library at Chapel Hill is reopened after renovation. Here the largest extant Raleigh collection is located.

The exhibition on North Carolina Blockade Running 1861-65 opened May 1, 1984 at the Eastern Office of the Division of Archives and History. This display is free and open from eight to five Monday through Friday at 117 West Fifth Street in Greenville, N. C.

Members, please be prepared to list and give addresses of persons interested in local history and who might become members.