

Brunswick County Historical Society

November 1993

1991-1993 OFFICERS

President- Gwen Causey
Vice President-
Secretary/Treasurer- David Bennett
Directors- Lucille Blake
 Johnsie Holden
Newsletter Editor- Frank Galloway

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be held November 8, 1993 at the Southport Campus of Brunswick Community College. The meeting will be begin at 7:30 p.m. Dr. James R. Rabon will speak on Education in Brunswick County.

1920 FEDERAL CENSUS

The society ordered twenty-three reels of the 1920 Federal Census. They will be housed in the library of BCC at Supply, NC. Arrival date of the film is scheduled to be here December 15, 1993. Counties included are: Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Durham, Johnston, Lenoir, Mecklenburg, Onslow, Pamlico, New Hanover, Orange, Robeson, Rockingham, Sampson, Wake, and Wilson.

THE BOILING SPRING

The Boiling Spring, once called "The Bouncing Log Spring" has been flowing continuously for centuries.

Millions of gallons of water gush from the spring every day, a fact confirmed by state and federal geologists in a scientific study of the fabulous flow.

Indians on their annual trek to the sea, camped and held council at this site around the mysterious water hole. According to Indian legend, "If one drank, he would return."

-Reference Note: The inscription above is found on a display board at the entrance to the Boiling Spring located in Boiling Spring Lakes near Southport, NC.

SUPPLEMENT TO
Southport Standard.

SOUTHPORT, N. C., APRIL 25, 8:30 A. M

DR. McNEILL DEAD.

Passed Away at Maxton Last Night.

The following sad intelligence was received at the STANDARD Office by telegram at 8:30 this morning:

"We regret to announce the death of Dr. McNeill last night in Maxton.

"Wilmington, N. C."

So passes away Brunswick county's Member of the House of Representatives, a man loved and esteemed by his countrymen, a sturdy character, a worthy man.

The Court House was promptly closed to business in respect to the deceased officer.

September 10 the death of my biled

of 1903

=REFERENCE NOTE: The handbill above was found among some loose papers belonging to a family in Bolivia, N.C. The source of the handwritten note is unknown.

AHNENPASS

During the Nazi regime, each citizen of Germany was required to carry an *Ahnenpass* (ancestor passport) with six generations of ancestry for government and military personnel and three generations for all others. This requirement was also imposed on some of the countries which capitulated to the Reich during World War II including Holland and Belgium. Copies of these German pedigrees were filed with the Reich and published as *Stamm-und-Ahentalfelwerke* (pedigree and ancestor tables), Leipzig: Zentralstelle fur Deutsche Personen-und-Familiengeschichte. Volumes for Italians of Aryan descent were also published. The Genealogical Society of Utah has microfilmed the *Ahnenpass* for the area of Mittelfranken in the Brenner Collection (671 reels) with supporting documents.

NAVASSA/ Years of research results in book

Councilman traces town history

By FRANK MALEY

Staff Writer

Robert Williams came back from World War I with two German pistols and a new attitude about the way blacks were treated in the United States.

His wartime souvenirs helped Navassa's Robin Hood express his heightened sense of injustice.

"He used to rob trains, take the food and throw it along the railroad tracks," said Eulis Willis, town councilman and author of a new history of Navassa. "The poor people used to come behind him, pick up the food and take it home."

Navassa: The Town and Its People traces Navassa's story from the early 1700s to 1991, using land records, history books and stories told by some of the town's older residents.

The first few chapters rely heavily on land records and history books. Mr. Willis admits they make for pretty dry reading.

"After you get past that first section, man, it gets good," he said.

Later chapters tell how the town got its name from the Caribbean island whose bird droppings supplied the region's first fertilizer company, the importance of railroads and fertilizer to the town's growth and Navassa's rise as a political force in Brunswick County after the Civil

Rights Act of 1964 knocked down racial barriers to voting in the mostly black town.

Scant attention is paid to more recent plant closings that have caused town residents to seek jobs elsewhere.

Mr. Williams, also known as "Will-Shoot-a-Pistol," shows up in a chapter of stories told by the town's older residents. About 30 pages are devoted to tracing family histories of town residents.

The 1970s television mini-series *Roots* inspired Mr. Willis to trace his personal history and the town's history. He began asking older residents about the town's past.

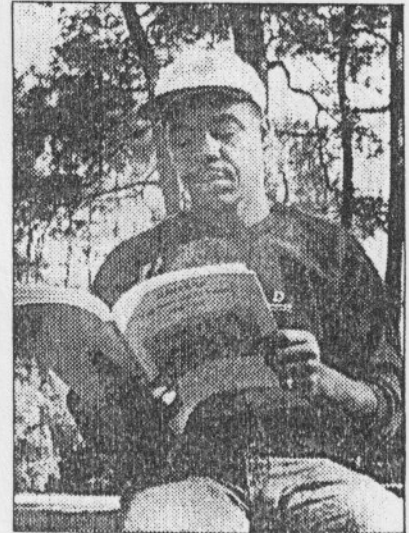
A newspaper article about the town's origins in 1984 prompted him to write a history of Navassa. He spent the past eight years researching county land records and history books when he could find time away from work and home.

He found researching the history of a black community difficult, especially the time before the Civil War, when blacks showed up in records only as property in sales agreements.

"Unless that plantation owner had records, . . . you never know," he said.

The record of slavery was unpleasant at times, but finding it was strangely rewarding.

"Even some of the atrocities — I



Staff photo / FRANK MALEY

Eulis Willis became the town's first historian with the publishing of 'Navassa: The Town and Its People,' which traces Navassa's story from the 1700s to 1991.

could step away from it because I was so excited about getting the information," Mr. Willis said.

About 500 copies of *Navassa* were published with Mr. Willis' money. Some copies will be donated to libraries and schools. The rest will be sold by Mr. Willis and Navassa Town Hall for \$15.

Recent publications available from Moores Creek National Battlefield include *Roster of Loyalists in the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge*, by Dr. Bobby G. Moss, with over 250 listings on Loyalist participants, and *Roster of Patriots in the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge*, with information on more than 1,800 Patriot participants. Each volume costs \$19.95 plus \$2.25 for tax, shipping and handling. To order send your name, address, and telephone number with a check made payable to Eastern National Park and Monument Association (ENP&MA) to Moores Creek National Battlefield, P. O. Box 69, Currie, NC 28435.

William Alonza Lancaster
Coast Guard, CSA

William Alonza Lancaster was born on March 18, 1834 at Johnson's Mill, Craven County, NC. He was the only son of Jesse and Celia Nelson Lancaster. Sometime between 1846 and 1850 Jesse and his second wife, Nancy Causey, moved to Brunswick County, NC. Here William Alonza Lancaster lived and farmed for the rest of his life. He married first Sarah Jane Roach and second Nancy Lancaster, his cousin.

William Alonza Lancaster served as a Coast Guardsmen in the Civil War in Brunswick and New Hanover Counties in North Carolina. His Soldier's Application for Pension states that he enlisted on or about July 1, 1862. His wife listed on her Widow's Application for Pension that he enlisted on or about July 1, 1861. He appeared on the payroll of Captain John Wesley Galloway, Sr. on June 1, 1862. (His wife must have given the correct date!)

Muster and Descriptive Roll of Captain John W. Galloway's Company of NC Volunteers known as Coast Guards from Brunswick were to be employed in the District of the Cape Fear except in case of invasion when they would be required to fight in the fort or in the field. The company was located at Fort Campbell (about one mile west of Fort Caswell.) To protect blockade runners close to shore the Coast Guard patrolled the coast as far west as Lockwood Folly Inlet with a horse drawn Whitworth gun, a cannon of long range and great accuracy. Fort Campbell was seized by two Union vessels on January 17, 1865, two days after it was abandoned by the Confederates.

William Alonza Lancaster remained in Brunswick County until his death on December 22, 1910. He is buried in the Lancaster Family Cemetery near Varnumtown on land originally deeded to his father.

Mail Call is a newsletter featuring a collection of letters, diary entries, and stories written by the soldiers of the Civil War as well as by today's re-enactors. For subscription information contact Anna Pansini, Distant Frontier Press, 28 Henry Street, Moonachie, NJ 07074-1121, or 201-296-0419.

The Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, established at Monticello in 1987, collects, preserves, and distributes historic plant varieties and strives to promote greater appreciation for the origins of garden plants. The center is offering a seed sampler of ten varieties grown by Jefferson, including three perennials (Blackberry Lily, English Lavender, and Native Columbine), two biennials (Canterbury Bells and Sweet William), and five varieties generally grown as annuals (Larkspur, Sensitive Plant, Bachelor's Button, "Tennis Ball" Lettuce, and Johnny-Jump-Up). To order the sampler or obtain more information about the center, contact the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, Monticello, Post Office Box 316, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902.

VIRGINIA ARCHIVES' RESEARCH SERVICE

The Virginia State Library and Archives will assess a research service fee of \$10.00 for replies to all out-of-state requests for research services effective August 1, 1993. The research service fee must be paid at the time an inquiry is submitted. The research process includes:

- locating the information or records desired
- examining the material for content
- determining the method of reproduction
- marking of material for reproduction, if necessary
- preparing a reply or order form

The fee covers up to 30 minutes of staff research and three xerographic copies if information is found. If more than three copies are made, or if copies from microfilm are required, a bill for the additional copies will be included with the response. If the search is negative, the search process will conclude with a reply delineating those materials examined. If extended, in-depth research is required, a list of professional researchers familiar with the printed and manuscript material in our collections will be furnished.

All visitors are welcome to use, free of charge, the printed and manuscript resources of the Virginia Archives, Monday through Saturday at 11th Street at Capitol Square, Richmond, VA 23219-3491.

VITAL RECORDS UPDATE

News of an ammendment to the North Carolina vital records law was sent by letter to President Spencer from Mr. A. Torrey McLean, CRM, State Registrar and Chief, Vital Records Section, NC Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources. Mr. McLean informs the Society of the following information:

"House Bill 569, which amended the vital records law, was ratified on June 11th. These amendments, which will enable the Vital Records Section to reduce fraudulent use of vital records and better utilize modern technology to protect and process vital records, passed both houses without a single dissenting vote. The final version included the change in wording that the NCGS requested authorizing the State Archives to have and provide access to indices to original vital records in its custody.

"I deeply appreciate the NCGS' support for this important legislation, and I will do everything in my power to ensure that genealogical research is facilitated by these changes. Please convey my gratitude to both the NCGS Executive Board and to the entire membership."

-- A. Torrey McLean

The Society expresses a special thanks to Mr. McLean for his willingness to protect the interest of North Carolina genealogists, while at the same time protecting the Vital Records of NC.