



NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUMN XXXV, NUMBER III

AUGUST 1994

From the President

"Happy Birthday"

Brunswick County Historical Society

Dear Members,

Forty years ago this society was organized. Many persons have helped to give life to the society. We are very grateful for their love of preserving the history of our county and other events and for thier fascination that has kept them exploring different channels of thought in order to bring to us information and laughter. They gave us a tough road to follow and we have tried our best to continue this trail.

We will recognize some of our past Presidents at our celebration at Brunswicktown State Historic site on August 7, 1994 beginning at 3:00 p.m. Birthdays are made of best wishes, cake, nuts, mints, and punch so enjoy this celebration! Join the society in celebrating its 40th anniversary on that day.

Our November meeting will be November 7th, 1994 at 7:30 p.m. in Supply N.C. at Concord Methodist Church. Mrs. Johnsie Holden will be our speaker.

Thanks again to Ernestine and Mildred Mercer for the wonderful tour of their Museum and delicious goodies at our May meeting.

Invite someone to come to BrunswickTown and celebrate with us!

Your President

Lottie Ludlum
Lottie Ludlum

Historical Quote: Q. the Susan B. Anthony coin was only put out three years. Has there ever been another U.S. dollar with so short a life span?

A. One. The first, the 1794-95 Flowing Hair dollar.

Brunswick County Historical Society

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Brunswick County Historical Society was organized on August 3, 1954 with Cornelius Thomas as president. From October 1954 until June 1956, the organization did not function. On June 21, 1956, a group met at Clarendon Plantation and reorganized the society electing Kirby Sullivan president. Since that date, the society has had regular meetings. Others who have served as president were H. Foster Mintz for the year 1957 and the Reverend Lawrence Bridges from 1958 through 1961. Mrs. M.H. Rourk has served continuously since 1961. Miss Helen F. Taylor has been treasurer since 1959 and secretary-treasurer since 1963, at which time the two offices were combined. Various other positions in the society have been held by Mrs. C. Ed Taylor, Miss May Phelps, the Reverend H. Arthur Phillips, Mrs. Gertrude G. McNeill, Mrs. Ramona King, and Mrs. Jeanette V. Driscoll.

A constitution was adopted in 1962.

The Society maintains a BrunswickTown Preservation Committee, whose function is to formulate policy and to assist the historic site any way possible.

The quarterly programs of the society have dealt with various phases of the history of Brunswick County. The society has been fortunate in having the programs presented by its own members especially Stanley A. South former archeologist in charge at BrunswickTown and at Fort Fisher; R.V. Asbury, formerly official guide at BrunswickTown; C.B. Berry, surveyor from Ocean Drive, South Carolina. Other notable speakers included Dr. Phillips Russell and Dr. E.J. Woodhouse, former members of the faculty of the University of North Carolina; and Dr. Lawrence Lee of the Citadel faculty and the author of History of Brunswick County.

In 1963 the president of the society, Mrs. M.H. Rourk, served as the area chairman for the State's tercentenary celebration of the granting of the Carolina Charter. In recognition of this event, the society presented a program at BrunswickTown on September 8, 1963. The program, under the direction of Charles Taylor, included Dr. Lawrence Lee, who conceived the idea of preserving the ruins of BrunswickTown, J. Lawrence Sprunt, who donated the land for the site, and Brigadier General John D.F. Phillips, who was the executive secretary of the State Tercentenary Commission.

The society was also active in helping to secure a legislative grant for the construction of a museum-visitor center at BrunswickTown. The Society had a Bicentennial Celebration at BrunswickTown on November 15, 196 Mrs. Harry L. Mintz Jr. was chairman of the program.

Brunswick County Historical Society

After the Brunswick County Bicentennial Celebration in 1964, Mrs. M.H. Rourk continued to serve as president through 1972, and Miss Helen Taylor was secretary through 1973. Other officers during these years were: Vice-president, Mrs. Gertrude McNeill, Mrs. Jeanette Driscoll, and Mrs. Harold Aldridge; Program Chairpersons, Mrs. E.W. Taylor and Mrs. Harry Mintz; Directors, R.V. Asbury Jr., Rev. Arthur Phillips, and Mrs. Lucille Blake; Editor of Newsletter, R.V. Asbury Jr.; Chairman of BrunswickTown Preservation Committee, Mrs. Harry Mintz.

These officers and other members were by this time seeing the completion of archeological work at BrunswickTown and also the building of the Museum-Visitor Center. This outstanding historical site now preserved evokes pride among Brunswick county residents and attracts thousands of tourist.

Mrs. Lucille Blake was elected president in 1973, and Miss Helen Taylor completed her fifteenth year as secretary. Mrs. Blake was re-elected president through 1977. Other officers serving through that time were: Vice-president, Harold Aldridge; Secretary, Grover Gore; Program Chairpersons, Mrs. Harry Mintz, Miss Katherine Carson and Mrs. Amarette Pierce; Editors of NEWSLETTER, R.V. Asbury Jr., Miss Jane Shetterly and William G. Faulk; Directors, Mrs. M.H. Rourk and Mrs. J.T. Keziah; Chairmen of BrunswickTown Preservation Committee, Harry Mintz and William G. Faulk.

Mrs. Frances Williams became president for 1978. Serving with her were Vice-presidents Amarette Pierce; Secretary, Mrs. Elaine Harmon; Board Member and Program Chairman, Mrs. Lucille Blake; Board Member, Miss Helen Taylor; Refreshment Chairman, Mrs. Lottie Ludlum; Nominating Committee Chairman, Mrs. Marie Rourk; Editor of NEWSLETTER, Rev. Reginald Bliss.

James Register was elected president for 1979. Other officers were: Vice-president and Program Chairman, Mrs. Lucille Blake; Secretary-Treasurer and Refreshment Chairman, Mrs. Lottie Ludlum; Board Members, Robert Russell and Miss Helen Taylor; Editor of NEWSLETTER, Rev. Reginald Bliss.

The next officers served in 1980 through 1987. They were: President, Mrs. Johnsie Holden; Vice-president and Program Chairman, Mrs. Lucille Blake; Secretary Treasurer, Mrs. Lottie Ludlum; Board Member Miss Helen Taylor; Board Member and Editor of NEWSLETTER, Rev. Reginald Bliss.

Gwen Causey was elected President in 1988. Other officers were Vice-President, _____; Secretary-Treasurer, Lottie Ludlum; and Editor of the NEWSLETTER, Frank Galloway.

Present officers of the Brunswick County Historical Society are: President, Lottie Ludlum; Vice-president, Frank Galloway; Secretary-Treasurer and Editor of NEWSLETTER, David Bennett; Board Members, Miss Helen Taylor, Mrs. Johnsie Holden, and Mrs. Lucille Blake.

Brunswick County Historical Society

Some members of this society are teaching local history; they and other members are researching materials to contribute to our programs. Most of our programs, however featured historians from several universities the Division of Archives and History, curators of local museums, and local authors.

The Brunswick County Historical Society is now a member of the North Carolina Federation of Historical societies. We also correspond and cooperate with other historical organizations for mutual benefit in appreciation and preservation of our heritage.

***** 1994 MEMBERSHIP DUES *****

Dues for 1994 are now due. Please send the following application along with your dues to the address listed below or pay the treasurer at the next meeting.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Enclosed is a check (), ~~money order~~, for MEMBERSHIP for the calendar year of 19___, in accordance with the schedule checked.

Make check payable to Brunswick County Historical Society, P. O. Box 874, Shallotte, N. C. 28459.

Please send NEWSLETTER to:

ANNUAL DUES

- ___ Individual \$10.00
- ___ Sustaining \$20.00
- ___ Life \$100.00

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Brunswick County Historical Society

PAST MEETING INFORMATION:

The Brunswick County Historical Society held its annual meeting on May 9, 1994 at Bolivia N.C., in the home/Museum of Mildred and Ernestine Mercer. Before the meeting began, the society took a tour of the Mercer ladies museum which is a collection of antiques, relics, and memorabilia from the history of Bolivia. Some of the items shown were farm equipment, church furniture, household items, and many other items that were used in day to day life over a hundred years age.

After members and guest toured the museum, the meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Lottie Ludlum. Pres. Ludlum thanked all for attending and welcomed the many visitors from the Bolivia area who attended the meeting.

Board member Gwen Causey read the minutes from the Fevruary meeting and gave the treasurers report in the absence of the Secretary-Treasurer David Bennett. All were approved.

President Ludlum announced that dues were now payable to the Treasurer and she urged all visitors present to join the society and also for the existing members to help in the recruitment of any new members.

President Ludlum announced that our next meeting will be held on August 7, 1994, at 2:30 at BrunswickTown State Historic Site. This meeting will celebrate the societies founding 40 years ago in 1954. The speaker will be Mr. Bartly director of the site. President Ludlum urged all present to attend and bring a friend to help mark this important milestone in our societies history.

President Ludlum once again thanked Mildred and Ernestine Mercer for allowing the society to meet at their home and tour their museum. Everyone present enjoyed their trip into the past for one brief moment.

The meeting was adjourned after which everyone enjoyed refreshments prepared by the Mercer sisters.

Society Officers for 1994

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| President: | Lottie Ludlum |
| Vice President: | Frank Galloway |
| Secretary/Treasurer: | David Bennett |
| Newsletter Editor: | David Bennett |
| Directors: | Lucille Blake |
| | Johnsie Holden |
| | Helen Taylor |
| | Gwen Causey |

Brunswick County Historical Society

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Reading History: Fellow Society Members, as members of this society, we have shown an interest in the history of our county, the families which live in it, and the surrounding area. In response to this interest, we do a great deal of research in order to learn more about the areas we have shown interest in. In doing our research there is one tool that is overlooked by many of us, a skill that without it we would never be able to uncover facts, our ability to read.

For us, it is nothing to take a book from a shelf, flip through the pages until we have found the information we are seeking and begin to read it to get a better understanding. But for many adults this is not a simple task. For reasons unknown many adults have never learned to read. This inability to understand written material has deprived many people from discovering the wonderful history of our county and also our country.

In Brunswick County alone, there are nearly 10,000 functionally illiterate adults. The Literacy Council of Brunswick County asks for our help in fighting this problem. As members, we may be able to identify and recruit tutors and contact adults in the county who would like to improve their reading skills. Other ways you can help is by : providing a place for students and tutors to meet, helping with literacy in the schools and lead Start, supporting volunteer tutors through recognition programs, raising public awareness, and assisting in fundraising. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Literacy council at 754-READ or 1-800-694-7323 or the Literacy Council in your area.



NAMING CUSTOMS IN SCOTLAND

[The following article was taken from the Australian Tulach Ard and was written by Ted Finn. Forty thousand Scots came to America through the Cape Fear prior to the Revolution.]

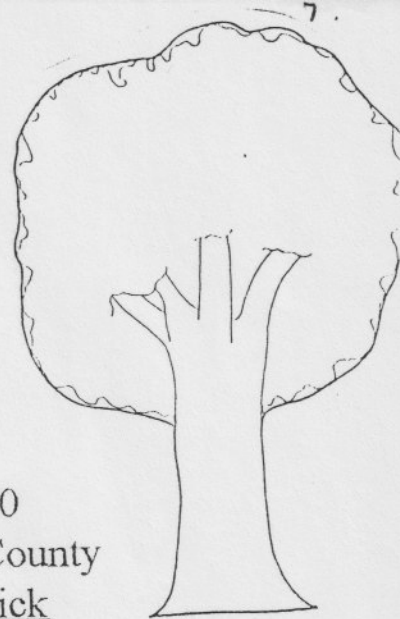
Scotland being a country appreciative of its traditions, had a highly developed system of naming children. The general custom to which there were some variations, was to name children as follows:

- The eldest son after the paternal grandfather.
- The second son after the maternal grandfather.
- The third son after the father.
- The eldest daughter after the maternal grandmother.
- The second daughter after the paternal grandmother.
- The third daughter after the mother.

Younger children would be named after earlier forbears but, the pattern in their case was less settled.

Under the Genealogy Tree

by: Gwen Causey



Mrs. Doris Lancaster Thompson has transcribed Brunswick County, NC, Board of County Commissioners Minutes 1868-1875, Volumes I and II. Volume I is \$27.00 and Volume II is \$25.00. Mrs. Thompson, a Brunswick County native, has also compiled 1850 Federal Census of Brunswick Co., NC and Brunswick County, North Carolina Minutes of Court of Pleas and Quarter Session, 1782-1786, 1789-1801. All of these books are available from the Old New Hanover Genealogical Society, PO Box 2536, Wilmington, NC 28402-2536. Other books related to Brunswick Co. are: Brunswick County, NC Voter Registration Records: 1902-1908 and Brunswick County, NC 1890 Tax List abstracted by Lucille Blake. These are available from the ONHGS. The 1830 and 1840 Censuses of Brunswick County can be obtained from the ONHGS. The 1850 Company of Whiteville, NC has published the 1860 Federal Census of Brunswick County, NC. James I. Marlowe has printed The Marlows of the Waccamaw River Region and Records Pertaining to the Sellers Family of Brunswick Co., NC. Dr. Marlowe can be contacted at Rt 1, Box 222, Hwy 87, Southport, NC 28461. Abstracts of Land Entries: Brunswick Co., NC 1794-1820 by Dr. A. B. Pruitt is available from the author, Rt 1, Box 158C, Rocky Mount, NC, 27803. Two books that will soon be available from the ONHGS are: 1810 Brunswick County, NC Census and 1820 Brunswick County, NC Census.

QUERY: Seek info on Benjamin GAUSE, who died 1803 in New Hanover Co., NC, and Charles GAUSE, his estate administrator. How related to GAUSE families of Brunswick Co., NC, and Horry Co., SC? Sarah A. MCNEIL 120 N. Lord St., Southport, NC 28461-3820.

8.

NORTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

presents an
ADVANCED GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR
with HELEN F.M. LEARY
27 AUGUST 1994

The NCGS will sponsor this all-day seminar on Saturday, August 27th at the MARRIOTT/CRABTREE VALLEY in Raleigh from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. HELEN F.M. LEARY, C.G., C.G.L., F.A.S.G., F.N.G.S. is a well-known and highly respected lecturer on genealogical research methods, with an emphasis on the southeast. She is President of the Board for Certification of Genealogists; a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists; and a Fellow of the National Genealogical Society (and received its Award of Merit in 1987). As a member of the adjunct faculty of the Samford Institute of History and Genealogical Research, she teaches advanced methodology and is Course Coordinator for Level V: Genealogy as a Profession. She will present the following advanced seminar:

"CLUTCHING AT STRAWS AND OTHER LAST-DITCH EFFORTS: WHAT TO DO WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS"

1ST LECTURE: "Is This the Same Man, or a Different One With the Same Name"

2ND LECTURE: "From Present Residence to Former Address: How to Backtrack an Ancestor Who Has Moved"

3RD LECTURE: "Back To Square One: Getting More From the Records Than You Thought Was There"

4TH LECTURE: "The Last Gasp: Weighing the Evidence to Determine Proof"

The cost will be \$40 for members of NCGS and \$45 for non-members, which includes lunch, and a Friday evening social hour at the Marriott with Helen Leary speaking on genealogical certification. Vendors will be present on Saturday. Walk-ins welcome if space permits. For more information, contact Program Chair, Helen Leverton at (919) 319-1965.

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REGISTRATION

NCGS GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR With HELEN F.M. LEARY
August 27, 1994

(Make check payable to NCGS, BOX 1492, Raleigh, NC 27602)

FROM: (NAME) _____
(STREET) _____
(CITY, STATE, ZIP) _____

Check one: () \$40.00 member of NCGS () \$45.00 non-member