



NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. XXXIV, No. 1

February, 1994

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dear Members and Friends of Preserving Brunswick County and North Carolina History,

This is the first meeting of the new year, 1994 and I hope you will be with us each meeting. On January 9th, the Board of Directors for the Society met with Mrs. Johnsie Holden of Holden Beach N.C. and we had a good meeting and accomplished much. I believe we have a speaker for each meeting that will meet your approval:

February 14th: Meeting will be at Leland Town Hall, 7:30 pm and the speaker will be Mrs. June Swenson from the Moores Creek Battlefield.

May 9th: Visit with Mildred and Ernestine Mercer at their Museum in Bolivia.

August 7th: 40th Birthday celebration of our Society at Brunswick Town.

November 7th: Meeting will be in southern part of county, time and place announced later.

I am happy to be your new president. Join with me in enlisting new members, attending each meeting, and preserving our history.

Sincerely,

Lottie Ludlum
President

Society Officers for 1994

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

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THE FALL OF FORT ANDERSON

South of the town of Wilmington the Cape Fear River splits to form, on the west, the Brunswick River and Eagles Island. In the southern part of this territory stands the ruins of St. Philips Church, all that remains of the eighteenth century town of Brunswick.

In 1861 the newly created North Carolina Dept. of Defense for the Confederate States of America began to construct a fort on this site for the defense of the town of Wilmington. Five hundred blacks, under the direction of Joseph R. Anderson and Major William Lamb, erected a small fort using sand and timbers cut from the surrounding forest. It was named Fort Saint Philips in honor of the ruins of the church the fort surrounds.

In 1863, the fort was enlarged and the name changed to Fort Quarantine because all blockade runners were required to stop at the fort for inspection before entering the harbor of Wilmington. The fort was renamed Fort Anderson in honor of General Joseph Anderson, military commander of the district and builder of the fort.

When the fort was enlarged, a massive defense system was created around the fort to prevent attack. On the southern front of the fort, timber was cleared for half a mile, over which the artillery of the fort was positioned. Orton Pond, a body of water seven to eight miles long protected the rear of the fort from attack. A series of smaller forts or out-works protected the western side and a system of rifle pits and covered ways was created to communicate with the main fort. Behind the massive walls of the main fort were twelve heavy gun emplacements, and beneath the walls, or mounds, were powder magazines and bombproof for the protection of the garrison. Directly east of the fort a field of torpedos were sunk in the river, and were connected to the fort by battery charged wires.

Fort Anderson's garrison consisted of 2500 troops under the command of General Johnson Hagood. This company included the 11th South Carolina, the 21st S.C., the 25th S.C., the 27th S.C. and the 7th S.C. Batteries.

After the fall of Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865, Union forces occupied Smithville, county seat of Brunswick county and known today as Southport. By February, 1865, Union forces had regrouped and began their next objective, the capture of Wilmington N.C. Major General John M. Schofield, commander of the recently created Department of North Carolina, arrived at Smithfield on February 9 to lead the attainment of this goal. Major General Schofield directed that a joint army-navy assault was required on Fort Anderson. This plan was similar to the one used in the battle of Fort Fisher.

On the morning of February 17, 1865 five thousand troops under the command of Major General J.D. Cox marched north out of Smithville toward Fort Anderson. On their march to the Fort, the northern army discovered several plantations and naval stores operations in their path which they immediately burned and continued on the mission.

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In the meantime, federal gunboats and monitors under the command of Admiral Porter began shelling Fort Anderson which made it "anything but comfortable" for its defenders. One confederate soldier said the fort was "knocked out of all shape."

During the naval attack, federal land forces, who had arrived and built rifle pits near the fort, began a land attack on the southern face of the fort. Southern forces retaliated with shells and light artillery and 26 Union soldiers were killed and many wounded. But the Union forces continued to advance at an alarming pace. To add to the confederates objective, Union troops began marching around Orton Pond, with the intention of attacking the rear of the fort. This would require a march of twenty-four hours over twenty miles. With this in mind, Union forces began another attack at four o'clock the next morning (February 19) but there was no response from the fort. The confederates had escaped under the cover of darkness and were in retreat toward Wilmington.

Union Forces entered the fort on February 20, 1865 and took possession. It was during this occupation that the blue-cad Union soldiers entered the graveyard surrounding the ruins of old St. Philips Church and dug up the remains of the coffins, broke open the tombs and scattered the bones, looking for jewelry and silver coffin plates. This was when many of the gravestones were destroyed.

The Confederates pulled back to Town Creek where after crossing the river, they burned the bridge and made one more stand. Union forces moved several flatboats into the river and created a bridge which they crossed and pursued the Confederate forces through rice fields to the River Road. After several failed stands, the Confederate forces finally retreated into Wilmington, delaying the Union advance by burning the bridge leading to Eagles Island. Federal troops finally marched into Wilmington and occupied it on February 22, 1865 and the Confederacy was sealed from the outside world.

The War Between the States had ended in Brunswick County except for an occurrence a year after Fort Anderson fell. Two Union seamen were examining the abandoned earthworks and ventured into one of the old and presumably empty magazines. One of the sailors struck a match against the floor in the dark room and an explosion resulted from loose and unseen gunpowder scattered about. Both men died from their injuries. Was it an accident? Or was it a weird twist of fate by which the ghostly defenders of Fort Anderson were able to strike the final blow?

Material for this article was compiled from the following sources:

History of Brunswick County N.C., by Lawrence Lee.

Land of the Golden River, by Lewis Philip Hall.

Civil War in North Carolina, by John G. Barrett.

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PAST METTING INFORMATION: Education in Brunswick County

On November 8, 1993, the Brunswick County Historical Society met at the Southport campus of Brunswick Community College. The speaker for the evening was Mr. James (Jim) Rabon and the topic was Education in Brunswick County, N.C. Mr. Rabon passed out copies of the school boards first meeting which was held on March 11, 1872. The following information has been copied from the handout:

State of North Carolina
County of Brunswick

Be it remembered that the County Commissioners of and for Brunswick County met this 11th day of March A.D. and organized the Board of Education as prescribed in the School Laws of the State of North Carolina ratified the 12th day of February A.D. 1872.

Present: R.W. Woodside Chairman
Thomas L Drew
Edward W. Taylor
William Watters

The board then proceeded to the transaction of business:

- Ordered that F.W. Mills teacher at Towncreek be paid One Hundred and Twenty five dollars (\$ 125) Voucher No.1
- Ordered that E. Mears teacher at Shallotte be paid One Hundred and Sixty dollars (160\$) Voucher No.2
- Ordered that B.H. Piggott teacher at Shallotte be paid One Hundred and Twenty five dollars (125\$) Voucher No.3
- Ordered that B.L. Butler teacher at Waccamaw be paid One Hundred Dollars (100\$) Voucher No.4
- Ordered that M.N. Farmer teacher at North West be paid One Hundred and Twenty dollars (120\$) Voucher No.5
- Ordered that Miss Kate Stewart teacher at Smithville be paid One Hundred dollars (100\$) Voucher No.6
- Ordered that Mrs. E Morse Teacher at Smithville be paid Eighty dollars (80\$) Voucher No.7
- Ordered that Mr. Edwards teacher at Lockwoodsfolly be paid Seventy five dollars (75\$) Voucher No.8

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PAST MEETING INFORMATION: Education in Brunswick County Cont.

Mr. Rabon also listed many of the early schools in Brunswick County. Some of these schools were:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Bolivia | Southend |
| Royal Oak | Leonard school |
| Mintz school | Shallotte Academy |
| Northwest | Bones Neck |
| Waccamaw I and III | Piggott school |
| Lords Branch | New Brittan |
| Jump and Run | Bear Branch |
| Shelly Landing | Reagan |
| Easy Hill | Ash |
| Batter Royal | Navassa and Cedar Hill |

AREA ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

The Old New Hanover County Genealogical Society will have its monthly meeting on February 15, 1994 in Bear Hall, Room 105, on the Campus of UNCW. The meeting will begin at 7:00 and the topic will be Genealogy of Old Houses. The speakers for the evening will be Edward Turberg and Beverly Tatterman. The ONHCGS meets every third Tuesday evening of each month from September to May.

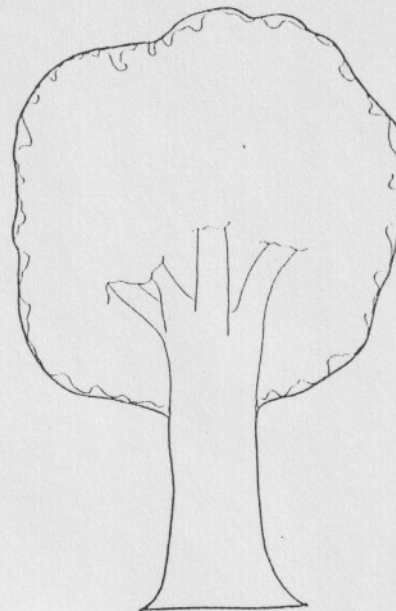
The Twenty-Sixth Annual Tryon Palace Decorative Arts Symposium will be held at Tryon Palace, in New Bern N.C., on March 20-22, 1994. The symposium is entitled "Adorning New Cities: Patronage and the Arts in the Capitals of Early America." Some topics being presented at the meetings will be:

- "Life in the Great London Houses: The Neoclassical Triumph"
- "Artisans, Patrons, and Entrepreneurs: The Rise and Development of the Applied and Decorative Arts in New York City, 1790-1830"
- "Specimens of Taste and Houses of Government: The Politics of Architecture-Palace, State House, and Capital-in North Carolina"

This symposium is presented by Tryon Palace Commission and East Carolina University. For more information call 1-800-767-9111. A copy of the brochure will be at the next meeting outlining all times and dates.

Under the Genealogy Tree

by: Gwen Causey



Looking for that ancestor that once lived in Southeastern North Carolina? The best place to begin is the Local History and Genealogy Room at the New Hanover Public Library, 201 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, NC. Beverly Tetterton and her capable staff are eager and willing to help.

Bill Reaves of Wilmington, NC is a local historian who has been collecting information of local families for twenty-five years. He has given his collection, known as the Bill Reaves Collection, to the New Hanover Public Library. You may request a copy of a family file by writing to Local History Room, New Hanover Public Library, 201 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, NC, 28401. Send a S.A.S.E. and the staff will advise you of the cost (\$ 0.15 per page plus postage and handling.) Some of the family names included in the collection are: Bacot, Bell, Bennett, Benton, Bozeman, Browne, Clemmons, Fulford, Gause, Graves, Groves, Gurganus, Gurganious, Hewett, Jordan, Keal (Keel), Meares, Mott, Motte, Parker, Potter, Robinson, Sellars, Sellers, Simmons, Smith, Swann (Swan), White, Wyche.

SOME SELECTED WILLS FOR BRUNSWICK CO., NC

- 1789 BELL, JOHN- Phoebe (wife), Hannah (m. Thomas Russ), Robert, Eunice Bell, John Caine, Rebecca Gilbert (m. Moses Gilbert).
- 1793 BELL, JAMES- Sarah (wife), James, Samuel, Nathaniel and Joseph; James Anderson, Sarah Galloway; Alfred, Cornelius, Mary, Amelia, Rebecca, Brevard and Mary Caines.

- 1800 BROWN, CHARLES- David.
- 1771 DANIEL, JOHN- Ann (wife) and others not named.
- 1788 DANIEL, JOHN- Ann (wife), Albert, George, William, Stephen and Robert.
- 1771 DANIEL, JOHN, JR.- Elizabeth (wife) and others not named.
- 1795 FRINK, MARTHA- Samuel and Elizabeth Gause, Dennis and John Frink, Martin Hankins.
- 1791 FRINK, SARAH- Needham, Samuel and Elizabeth Gause, Mitchell, Elizabeth, Mary, and Sarah Bellume.
- 1795 GALLOWAY, JOHN- Alfred, Cornelius, Mary, Amelis, and Nathaniel.
- 1783 GAUSE, JOHN- Charlotte (wife), Elizabeth, Benjamin, Charles, John, Hannah, and Needham.
- 1794 GAUSE, NEEDHAM- Hannah (wife), Needham, William, John, Bryan, and Elizabeth.
- 1793 GOODMAN, WILLIAM- Amy (wife), Sarah, William, Henry, Luke and Job; Catherine Bell; Martha Ruthland; Sam Potter.
- 1800 GOODMAN, ANNE- Lydia Caines, Sarah Goodman; Mary Wingate; Robert and Samuel Potter; Amelia Russ.
- 1794 HEWETT, JOSEPH, JR.- Dorcas (wife), John, David, Joseph, Thomas and Samuel, Philip and Rachel, Ivey; Ruth Standard.
- 1778 HOLDEN, BENJAMIN- Alfred and others not named.

- 1772 LEONARD, HENRY- Hannah (wife), Joseph Hewett; Crawford Ludlum; Job Holden; Henry and John Willitts; Abigail Holden, Ann Willitts, Ruth and Lydia Hewett.
- 1782 LEONARD, SAMUEL- Samuel and others not named.
- 1782 LUDLUM, CRAWFORD- Harriet Laspyre and others not named.
- 1769 LUDLUM, ISAAC- Nehemiah and others not named.
- 1770 LUDLUM, SARAH- Crawford.
- 1798 POTTER, MILES, SR.- Robert, Miles, John and Joseph; Abraham Skipper; Margaret M^cMurray.
- 1788 ROBERTS, AARON- Martha (wife) and others not named.
- 1765 ROSS, CHARLES- Hannah (wife) and others not named.
- 1779 SIMMONS, JOHN- Sarah (wife).
- 1775 STANLAND, PATRICK- Thomas and others not named.
- 1799 TAYLOR, HENRY- Mary (wife), children (not named).
- 1786 TAYLOR, THOMAS- Wife (not named):
- 1761 WILLITTS, HOPE- Samuel, Mary, Lydia, Amy, Joseph and Hope.

The above was taken from Abstract of North Carolina Wills, 1760-1800 (pages 39-42) by Fred Olds.

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Obituaries

Mr. William Graddy Faulk Jr. of Southport N.C., died on October 28, 1993. Mr. Faulk was the former director for the state historic site at Brunswick Town and a supporter in preserving the history of both Brunswick County and North Carolina. The following articles appeared in the State Port Pilot, Southport N.C.

William Graddy Faulk Jr. of Southport

William Graddy Faulk Jr. Died Thursday and with his passing is closed an important chapter in the effort to discover, preserve and highlight significant events which occurred on our historic area of North Carolina.

Bill succeeded Stanley South as superintendent of the state historic site at Brunswick Town and trained three young men in this specialized profession so well that they later were placed in charge of other North Carolina historic sites or museums.

He was there when plans were formulated for the visitors center at Brunswick Town and during the construction phase of that facility. He worked closely with the Garden Clubs of North Carolina Inc. in establishment of a Nature Trail sponsored by the organization. Through his continued study and research he amassed a storehouse of information about lighthouses, fortifications and aborted colonization efforts that may have been the best ever within the knowledge of one man.

Personal problems and failing health brought about Bill's early retirement, but it should be remembered that he played a major role in focusing statewide interest and attention upon events which marked this as probably the most historically significant area of North Carolina during Colonial days.

He is survived by two sons, William G. Faulk III of Cheyenne, Wyoming and Richard T. Faulk of Southport; a daughter, Helen F. Mathis of Hickory; a sister, Helen Simpson of Florida; and four grandchildren, Chris and Beth Mathis of Hickory and Amanda and Shelby Faulk of Cheyenne, Wyoming.