



NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER II

May 1994

A Message From Your President

Hi everyone! May is here and summer is not far behind. That means vacation time. If you visit or find any historical interests please tell us about them in our next newsletter. Just send the information to David.

I represented our society at the 218th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge February 27th, 1994. My husband and daughter went with me and a very interesting program was presented. The 440th Army National Guard Band presented a concert and the color Guard was represented by the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry. Dr. Bobby G. Moss, noted historian and author was the speaker. A precessional to the battlefield where wreaths were placed on both the Patriot and Loyalist Monuments. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

We received a letter from Eric Priest of Harris Middle School, Spruce Pine N.C., asking for information on Brunswick County for a school project. I found several old newsletters that he could use, also in the Atlantic Telephone Directory was a wonderful report of Brunswick County. I donated my copy of "The History of Brunswick County," by Lawrence Lee, to their school library.

Please note on page 05 for information on the closing of the Bicentennial of UNC-Chapel Hill, 200th Anniversary. Let's think about this and see if we can participate.

Our next meeting will be August 7th at 2:30 p.m. at BrunswickTown State Historic Site. We will celebrate our 40th birthday anniversary as Brunswick County Historical Society. Mr. Bartley will be presenting the program. Invite someone to help us celebrate.

I found these 2 quotes of yesterday that are still quotes of today:

- Your ancestors and mine promised to pay an account by signing their names at the foot of a billing list. And the phrase for that act eventually was shortened : "To foot the bill."
- Planted as decorative shrubbery around numerous government buildings in Washington, D.C., are American yew trees. The botanical name for the species is "taxus taxus."

See you at our May meeting on May 9th at 7:00 p.m. in Bolivia and we

Brunswick County Historical Society

will be visiting with Mildred and Ernestine Mercer at their museum.

Lottie Ludlum
President

Past Meeting Information

Battle of Moore's Creek

The Brunswick County Historical Society met on February 14, 1994 at the Leland town Hall, Leland N.C. The speaker for the evening was Mrs. June Swenson from the Moore's Creek National Battlefield near Currie N.C. Mrs. Swenson showed the society a video on the Battle and the park.

The 86-acre park preserves the site of the Revolutionary War battle of Moores Creek Bridge, fought on February 27, 1776, between loyalists and patriots of North Carolina. The only original remains are the bridge site and a stretch of the old Negro Head Point road. The earthworks that can be seen today are remnants of those built by Col. Alexander Lillington's troops, the first patriots to arrive at the bridge. This line of works was carefully planned to take advantage of high ground across the creek. In this position Lillington could fend off raiding parties that might ford the creek and attack the creek and attack him side or rear. He straddled the road over which the loyalist must come after they crossed the bridge.

The park also includes a History trail and the Tarheel Trail which interprets. along the trail, the production of naval stores which was the chief industry of this region during the American Revolution.

The battlefield is located 20 miles northwest of Wilmington, N.C. by taking I-40 or US 421 north to the junction with N.C. 210; go west on 210 to the park entrance on the right. The battlefield is open daily except January 1 and December 25. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For more information contact: Superintendent, P.O. Box 69, Currie N.C. 28435.

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

BOLIVIA

THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS

1892 - 1992

In the heart of Brunswick County, lying among the rich farmland and vast pine forests, is a small community which was the home to 100 hard working citizens. These people had a dream of forming a town and in the early 1890s' this dream became a reality.

The first step in forming a town was the establishment of a Post Office. In 1892., Mr. John P. Cox was appointed the first Postmaster and opened the Post Office in his general store. One of his first duties was to name the office and community. He submitted several names to the U.S. Postal Department all of which were already being used in the system.

Mr. Cox recalled seeing bags of fertilizer which were imported from a place called Bolivia, South America. He thought this name unusual and submitted Bolivia N.C. and it was accepted.

Some of the early settlers of Bolivia N.C. were: Aycok, Ballance, Bullard, Cox, Danford, Edwards, Eichorn, Freeman, Galloway, Harvell, Hawes, Kory, Hilburn, Hinson, Johnson, Joyce, Kirby, Leonard, Lewis, Mercer, Mintz, McKiethan, Robbins, Swain, Wescott, and Wilson.

Bolivia was located on the main North-South road which ran through the County. It was felt the area had a great future and would become the center of County Government and business.

Bolivia became a center for businesses in the county. By 1907 there were several general stores as well as the Waccamaw Shingle Company, Town-Creek Lumber Company, which also constructed a railroad from Navassa to Bolivia using Russian workers, and a depot and platform. Later a tobacco warehouse would be constructed. In 1911, Walter Leonard opened the first automobile dealership called Bolivia Automobile Co. Among other auto accessories he sold Firestone, Diamond, and Republic tires.

The medical field was covered by Dr. W.R. Goley and later a Dentist from Southport made regular monthly visits.

In January, 1911 Bolivia elected the first Mayor, J.P. Cox, and elected alderman, J.H. Knox, G.L. Edwards, and A.T. Danford. Also in that year the town was incorporated with the hopes of becoming the county seat.

In a 1919 election voters chose Bolivia over Supply and Southport (the present county seat) as the county seat. Since none of the towns received a majority of votes, a second election was held and again Bolivia was the choice.

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County Commissioners approved the vote and declared that Bolivia was the new county seat. Bonds were issued to purchase land, construct a courthouse, and a jail. But due to a technicality in the majority of votes clause, Bolivia lost the bid as a county seat. After appealing the case to the state Supreme Court, the court found that the majority of votes cast in the Bolivia voting district did not meet a majority fo votes cast in favor of relocating the county seat. Southport remained the county seat.

None the less, Bolivia continued to grow with the building of Bolivia High School in 1927, and the opening of many new businesses over the years.

In 1979, Bolivia finally got its wish and the county seat was moved from Southport. It took almost ninety years of work to make the move but county commissioners agreed.

Today Bolivia is still a small town that boost both charm and grace. Many of the businesses have closed but the town still posses the spirit that drove the early residents to create a town that would be the center of Brunswick County Government.

* Information for the following article was taken from the book, Bolivia, The First One Hundred Years 1892-1992, BY Mildred and Ernestine Mercer.

***** 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.

- | ANNUAL DUES | |
|----------------|----------|
| ___ Individual | \$10.00 |
| ___ Sustaining | \$20.00 |
| ___ Life | \$100.00 |

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

Please send NEWSLETTER to:

NAME _____

STREET _____

C _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
Office of the Chancellor

Paul Hardin
Chancellor

103 South Building
Campus Box 9100
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-9100
(919) 962-1365 FAX: (919) 962-1647

Dear North Carolinian:

Two hundred years ago, as the guns of the Revolutionary War still echoed throughout the land, the people of North Carolina founded the nation's first public university in Chapel Hill.

On October 12, 1993, North Carolina celebrated this historic event in Chapel Hill with the kick-off of an eight-month Bicentennial Observance. President Clinton joined us for a spectacular Opening Convocation in Kenan Stadium.

The 200th anniversary has included more than 100 cultural and educational events. Distinguished leaders and scholars, including winners of the Pulitzer, Oscar, Emmy and Nobel Peace Prize, have traveled to Chapel Hill. Most importantly, the University has presented special ceremonies and events in communities throughout the state. In fact, you may have joined other leaders in your town to celebrate at local ceremonies like the Bicentennial postal card issuance and the Davie Poplar tree planting; or perhaps you were involved in sending your county flag to Chapel Hill to fly over campus on October 12.

As the Bicentennial draws to a close, it is important for us not only to celebrate our past, but also to reflect on our future. On Sunday, May 15, at noon, the Bicentennial will officially conclude with the ringing of bells from the Bell Tower in Chapel Hill. As a powerful symbol of our state's commitment to public education, we are asking churches, historic buildings, schools and town halls across North Carolina to join us by ringing in the third century of public higher education.

If your historic site has a belfry, or if you know of a site in your county that does, please plan to have the bells rung sometime between noon and 12:30 p.m. on May 15. If possible, return the enclosed form by April 15 to ensure that your building and town will be included in an official statewide registry. The registry will be widely distributed across the state and maintained permanently at the University.

May 15 promises to be a proud moment in the history of North Carolina as citizens across the state join together to usher in the third century of public higher education.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jim Hunt
Governor, North Carolina

Paul Hardin
Chancellor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Second Annual
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOP

May 21, 1994

Tunnel Road Holiday Inn, Asheville NC

8:30 AM to 3:00 PM



FOCUS: UNIQUE ELEMENTS OF OUR REGIONAL HISTORY

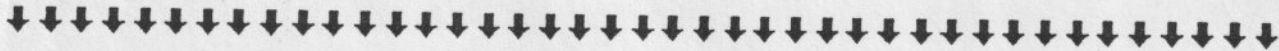
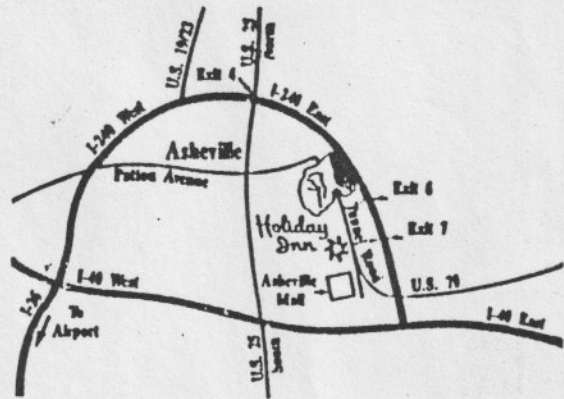
Featured Speaker: **Margaret Hofmann**, outstanding professional genealogist and author of many excellent books of land records, who will lecture on "The State of Franklin" and "Augusta County, Virginia: Gateway to North Carolina?" Margaret will also bring her bookshop; she is the exclusive dealer for publications of the N. C. Genealogical Society.

Other speakers: **Dan Lane**, specialist in the Civil War Era history of the region, who will speak on "Western North Carolina Families During the Civil War"

Betsy Farlow, who toured with Samford's British-Irish course (England, Scotland, Wales, Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland) in 1993, will discuss "Researching in the British Isles: How Difficult is It? Is It Worth It? What Can I Find?"



Cost: \$25.00 per person, including lunch for early birds who register by May 16, 1994. Registration on May 21 will be \$25.00, excluding lunch. No refunds after May 16. For more information call Betsy Farlow (704-456-3988) or Roberta Hall (704-669-6172) or write to the address below.



CUT AND

MAIL TO: Walter Hall, Workshop Treasurer, 407 Tomahawk Ave., Black Mountain NC 28711

NAME(S) _____

NO. PERSONS _____

STREET _____

AMT. ENCLOSED \$ _____

CITY _____ STATE, ZIP _____