



NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME XXXV
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NOVEMBER 1995

AND THE PRESIDENT SAYS.....

1995 is swiftly coming to a close. All of our programs have been very interesting and well attended.

We have another one November 13th at Brunswick Community College 7:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose room 1st floor. Mr. Henry Mintz will be our speaker. If he is unable to attend Mr. Frank Galloway will be the speaker.

February 12th 1996 will be our first meeting of the new year. We will meet at Leland Town Hall and Miss Helen Taylor will be our speaker.

Mark your calendars for November 13th at Brunswick Community College. See you there.

Lottie Ludlum
President

DUES

Send your dues of \$10.00 for 1996 to the treasurer Gwen Causey.

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THE STATE PORT PILO

A Good Newspaper In A Good Community

8-PAGES TODAY

Southport, N. C., Wednesday, June 26th, 1935

PUBLISHED EVERY

Lone Survivor Of Grey Clad Forces Of Brunswick County

John Wescott, Southport Resident, Is Last Confederate Veteran Living In Brunswick County; He Is Invalid

PENSION CHECKS ARE DISTRIBUTED

Three Class "A" Widows And Twenty-Four Class "B" Widows Of Confederate Veterans Received Their Checks

John Wescott, for five years an invalid at the home of his son in Southport, is the last Confederate veteran living in Brunswick county. He will be 90 years of age on August 28.

When the Civil War broke out Mr. Wescott, who was born and reared near Southport, joined the coast guards and fought at Fort Fisher until she fell. Later he joined the land forces and took part in the battle of Bentonville and Bennettsville. The old soldier says that he was in Captain Wesley Galloway's company and that he thinks he was in the 20th regiment.

Semi-annual pension checks were distributed to Confederate



JOHN WESCOTT

veterans and their widows last week and Mr. Wescott's check called for \$182.50.

There were three checks for class "A" widows. Members of this group must be totally blind or totally disabled and their pension checks are for \$150 semi-annually. Those receiving these

(Continued on Page Eight)

Lone Survivor of Grey Clad Forces of Brunswick County

(Continued from page 1.) checks were: Elizabeth Gaylord, L. E. Lewis and Mary C. Swain.

Class "B" widows receive \$50 semi-annually. Those who received checks for this amount were: Lydia A. Benton, Henrietta Carlisle, H. V. Cox, Fannie G. Davis, Annie K. Fergerson, Ellie Gray, Teletha E. King, Mary Mitchell, Addie L. Morgan, Arney G. Murrell, Mary E. Phelps, Rachel P. Robbins, Fannie Robinson, Lucy A. Ross, P. M. Russ, Nancy Jones Sellers, Rebecca Simmons, Jennie Stanland, F. A. Styron, R. E. Vereen, Helno Caroline White, Mary Ann Williams, R. E. Williams and Mary E. Wilson.

The check received for Mary Jane Greer, deceased, was returned.

MEMOIRS OF THE WAR OF SECESSION FROM THE ORIGINAL
MANUSCRIPTS OF JOHNSON HAGOOD, BRIGADIER-GENERAL, C.S.A.

ENGAGEMENT AT TOWN CREEK

Town Creek enters the Cape Fear river from the west about six miles above Fort Anderson and on the same side of the river. The upper and lower bridges had each been previously slightly fortified by General Hagood, his only communication with Wilmington being over them, and were held by bridge guards, the upper by eighty infantry and the lower bridge by twenty. The Whitworth sent back from Anderson had been directed to stop at the lower bridge, and had there received a small supply of ammunition. The creek was forty or fifty yards wide, and was navigable for craft of four feet draft as far as the upper bridge; at its mouth, however, was a hard sand bar only one foot under water at low tide. The two bridges were the only regular crossings, and at both the high ground was on the southern bank. From three-quarters of a mile above the lower bridge to the river were rice fields; above that point were rice fields at intervals, but not on both sides at once. The swamp was generally half a mile wide, but there were frequent bluffs where the highland approached the stream first on one side and then on the other. Between the lower bridge and the mouth there were bluffs on the north side with open rice fields and the usual dams to the highland opposite. The channel of the Cape Fear lay between Big Island and the east bank; but there were boat landings at Cowan's and above. It was between nine and ten miles between the bridges by the road we were obliged to use--about six miles from the upper bridge to the cross roads at Marks' Branch, about seven miles to the lower bridge to same points, and four miles from these cross roads to the pontoon bridge over Brunswick River. Mallory Creek was Marks' Cross Roads and the lower bridge, and two and a quarter miles from the last. Cowan's Landing by the road was about the same distance from the lower bridge.

At 9:45 a.m., on the 19th, the main column crossed the lower bridge and went into position--Taylor's regiment, of Hedrick's brigade, in the entrenchments with three pieces of artillery--Ganntt's Eleventh South Carolina (under Captain Westcoat), picketing Cowan's--and the balance of Hagood's brigade, under Simonton and Hedrick's own regiment, the Fortieth North Carolina, with the balance of the artillery in reserve near the church. A patrol of twenty men were kept to the front down the Fort Anderson road. Lipscomb arrived soon after at the upper bridge and reported himself in position with the balance of the cavalry, eight infantry and one howitzer.

General Hagood reported by telegraph his arrival to General Hoke and asked for orders. He received the following reply: "Future operations will depend on circumstances. Will telegraph you in the morning."

The enemy appeared in front of lower bridge, at 3:30 p.m., and slight skirmishing ensued. At 5:35 p.m., Hagood telegraphed Hoke: "Thirteen gunboats in the river above Big Island, and small boats ahead scouting Town Creek is a line can be held whenever occupied. I have examined several miles of it today. From my observation it can be crossed almost anywhere that sufficient troops are not stationed. Let me know your views and intentions." In reply the same evening General Hagood received the following: "Hold Town Creek till you hear from me." On the next day, the 20th, General Hoke telegraphed, "you must move you command as you think best; at same time recollect the importance of your communication with Wilmington. . . . I leave the matter to your judgment." And again and finally, on same day, "Dispute their advance at every available point." Shortly afterwards an officer from the staff of General Bragg, who had returned from Richmond and resumed command, was sent to General Hagood to impress upon him the necessity of delaying the enemy's advance. He stated that a large number of Federal prisoners, some ten thousand, had been sent to Wilmington, for delivery in exchange under a convention entered into between Generals Grant and Lee

When the enemy's skirmishers began to press on the evening of the 19th, Lieutenant Jeffords with his mounted patrol were brought in; and the lower bridge thoroughly destroyed. Jeffords' command was then used until late next day to patrol the north bank. Colonel Lipscomb was also directed to scout to his front and left on the enemy's flank and rear, and for that purpose to keep his bridge intact until compelled by the enemy in large force to destroy it. At daylight, on the 20th, the enemy were in large force in front of lower bridge; he got a battery of Parrotts into position and pushed forward skirmishers. The fire of artillery and rifles was at this point brisk throughout the day

About 11:30 a.m., the Twenty-first South Carolina was sent to relieve the Eleventh South Carolina at Cowan's. Shortly after it started a dispatch was received from Captain Westcoat, commanding Eleventh, that the enemy were landing at Cowan's. Major Wilds, commanding Twenty-first, was immediately directed by courier to retain the Eleventh and engage the enemy. At 12:40 p.m., he reported the enemy in force and driving him. Colonel Simonton, commanding Hagood's brigade, was directed to take the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-seventh regiments with him and, assuming command, take position at the first fork of the road coming from Cowan's and hold it. At 2:10 p.m., he reported from a point on the south road short of this fork, "the enemy are in my front and appear to be

extending on the north road. From my position I cannot guard both roads. No demonstration since Major Wilds reported." General Hagood had previously ordered two pieces of artillery to Colonel Simonton. He immediately went in person and found Colonel Simonton skirmishing sharply with the enemy, his reserves and two pieces of artillery on south road . . . , and his skirmish line not reaching the north road Considering the overwhelming number opposed to him, General Hagood determined at once to withdraw from Town Creek. His small force however, from the necessity of his position, had been scattered over twelve miles, with the line of retreat behind the left flank, the one that had been turned

Colonel Simonton was accordingly directed to extend his line of skirmishers to the left (so as to cover both roads), to put a reserve behind each flank (one on each road), to keep one piece of artillery with each reserve (on the south road), and to fall back making an obstinate *skirmish* fight, until his reserves reached the telegraph road: then to close his reserves together at the point marked Y, where General Hagood promised himself to place the other piece and to retire down the road (YZ)--making that his direction.

Having made these dispositions and given these directions, General Hagood returned rapidly to his headquarters at the Church, and dispatched Colonel Lipscomb immediately to withdraw with his whole force to Marks' Cross Roads; called in Lieutenant Jeffords with his mounted men and sent him to Colonel Simonton to keep up the connection between his two reserves; ordered the trains which had previously been stationed at marks' Cross Roads into Wilmington and sent with them his sick and wounded and two of his field pieces that had been disabled; and placed the Seventh South Carolina and the Fortieth North Carolina, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Rion of the Seventh Two men were sent to burn the bridges at McElhaney's mill and cut the sluices to prevent the enemy's use of the telegraph road to intercept the retreat to Wilmington

Colonel Lipscomb was absent from his command examining the creek above his position when the courier reached the upper bridge, and the officer next in command most improperly delayed to execute the order till Colonel Lipscomb could be found--thus losing two hours in movement.

Judging from the firing that Simonton was hard pressed, General Hagood gave the order to Colonel Hedrick, commanding at the lower bridge, to commence withdrawing at 3 p.m. he was instructed to leave a strong rear guard in the work till he was fairly off. Lieutenant Moffett arrived before the order was fully executed and reported Simonton near the telegraph road. When Hedrick's column was within half a mile approaching Colonel Rion's lines, Captain Stoney was dispatched with a courier accompanying him at speed to order Simonton to fall

back rapidly, and to guide him. Stoney found on the left of the road a body of skirmishers very slightly engaged, and Simonton on the right of this road and in the telegraph road with one piece of artillery and in a line of battle The enemy were advanced with a heavy line of battle, and Simonton firing rapidly upon them both with his artillery and rifles. Captain Stoney delivered his order, and Simonton ordered his piece limbered up and his line of battle to move to the left towards the skirmishers, but the enemy pressing him again, he revoked the order and sent Stoney to say he was too heavily engaged to withdraw. Captain Stoney was immediately returned to Colonel Simonton at the full speed of his horse to tell him "*he must come*; to throw away his artillery and make a run for it; that a line of battle was formed in his rear to protect him."

Stoney arrived in time to see the overwhelming lines of the enemy sweep over Simonton--the artillery firing till the enemy got within a few feet of it, and the infantry standing by the gun and resisting till overpowered hand to hand. He did not get to Simonton, and, his own horse being shot, he became involved in the melee. The body of skirmishers, before alluded to, coming out and straggling from the right and informing Hagood of the state of affairs, he now took position behind Mallory creek, keeping out a strong skirmish line and the squad of cavalry under Jeffords patrolling towards the Church direct straggling in.

This position he held till after dark, when stragglers ceasing to come in and Colonel Lipscomb reporting with his mounted men, his infantry and artillery being in march on the Georgetown road approaching Marks's Cross Roads, General Hagood ordered a retreat. One-half of Lipscomb's mounted men formed a rear guard at the distance of a mile, and the other half was sent forward to hold the position of McElhaney's mill. The infantry and artillery were passed over the pontoon bridge across Brunswick river, and by steam ferry over the Cape Fear by 12 o'clock at night; and the former marched to report to Hoke who upon the left bank had fallen back to near Wilmington. The cavalry, after burning the pontoons and the railroad bridge over Brunswick river and leaving the picket on Eagle Island, crossed into Wilmington about daylight on the 21st.

In this engagement the loss was two pieces disabled and brought off, two pieces captured by the enemy, and 461 men and officers killed, wounded, and missing--all of whom were from four regiments of Hagood's brigade. Colonel Simonton carried into action six hundred men and officers. His fault was in allowing his greatly inferior force to become engaged in a line of battle behind obstructions rapidly thrown up.

Of the missing Colonel Simonton subsequently reported 330 men and officers, including wounded captured by the enemy. Twenty killed upon the field is a very large estimate, and this would leave over a hundred men and officers,

who, coming out of the rout and not finding the brigade that night, straggled off to South Carolina, and were no more, with very few exceptions, heard of in this war. Captain Stoney himself, included among the missing above reported, with fifty-two men and officers came out of the rout and did not find the brigade that night. These men, misinformed on reaching the Lumberton railroad of affairs in Wilmington, took the cars to Lumberton to rejoin the brigade via Fayetteville (this, however, they never did). Captain Stoney separated from them and rejoined his command at Rockfish creek some days later.

In all these operations Hagood's command fell back for four days, taking this time to go a distance of eighteen miles and crossing two rivers. Everything that was movable was brought off, and the loss in battle was inconsiderable, when the circumstances of fighting to delay so superior a force is regarded, and especially the powerful aid the enemy derived from his navy. Without this he could not with such facility have turned the Town Creek position. The propriety of making the obstinate stand at Town Creek at all rests with the direction of affairs. It delayed the evacuation of Wilmington but little and was a hazardous venture. Had the junction been made at Wilmington on the night of the 19th, the enemy would have gone into position on the 20th near the pontoon bridge, and would at most have shelled the town with field artillery. The nearest point of the town to the Brunswick shore being two and a quarter miles, this would have been a mere bagatelle. We would have had to evacuate the town only one day sooner. As it was, a large number of prisoners could not be got off by railroad, and were marched ahead of us to a point on the railroad beyond the Northeast river where they were placed on the cars next day for further transportation.

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Grape-Shot, also called tier-shot, consist of bullets or small iron balls pile around an iron pin, holding together a series of parallel iron plates (each the diameter of the cannon used), between which are the shot, kept in their place by holes in the plates. Small 3½-inch or 4-inch shells are also quilted together like grape for firing from mortars at short range, as, for example, in clearing the covert-way of a fortress from the third parallel. In either case, the explosion of the charge bursts asunder the binding, and the shot (or shells) begin to scatter directly on leaving the muzzle of the piece. Grape are very formidable against dense masses of troops; but, only at comparatively short ranges. The shot employed differs in weight from 6oz. To 4 lbs., according to the calibre of the gun from which they are fired.

SOURCE: Chamber's Encyclopedia, Volume V. Philadelphia:J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1873

Under the Genealogy Tree

by: Gwen Causey

GENEALOGY OR HYPE

"A local resident who was a CGRS and is now a RG, contacted your Bureau recently expressing a great deal of concern with so-called genealogy publications that blanket the country with advertising. She reports that she is 'constantly approached and receives calls from people who have received the trash. They are usually excited about the books advertised, buy one, and are very disappointed.'

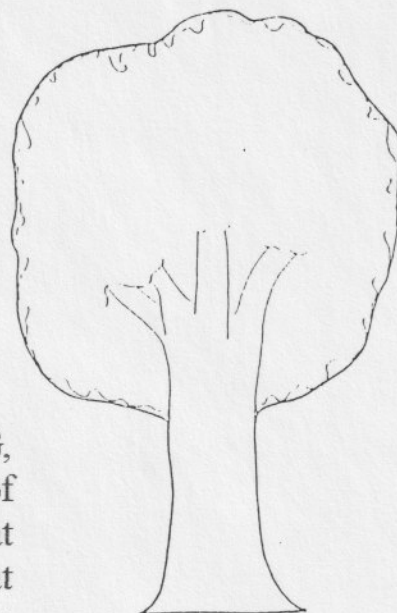
Better Business Bureaus hear similar stories from consumers and other certified genealogists.

One Ohio company has been promoting so-called 'family' directories, publications and/or heraldry for years, under a variety of trade names. A Colorado company issues 'family' newsletters. There are others [remember Beatrice Bailey, Elizabeth Ross, and Robert E. (your surname)?]

Two common characteristics among most of these highly advertised publications are (1) individuals with the same surname are solicited, and (2) any family ties of recipients and/or listed individuals is solely coincidental.

Incidentally. I never receive mailings concerning publications regarding my MAIDEN NAME from these 'generic family' book publishers, although my brother and parents do--another tell-tale sign that the offer is not bona fide genealogical research.

Individuals interested in genuine family genealogy should not expect receive accurate personal ancestry through direct mail solicitations from mail-order companies. These companies sell books and other products by family name and surname, but do not issue specific genealogy on a particular family tree. Names of individuals included in their directories are obtained from telephone directories, automobile registration, electoral rolls and other public records. These companies do not trace family trees and are not genealogists. Most do not claim to be genealogists. Because of the type of product offered and the manner in which it is advertised, however, members of the public often perceive the offering to be a genealogy.



Publications may be so generic that no particular family person is even mentioned (except for their names and address, at times.) I recall seeing a series of one newsletter that was filled with generic of 'history' of how America was settled and grew. Periodically, the publisher would throw in the surname of the recipient with an approach such as, 'Perhaps, one of your ancestors (your surname) was among those who moved west in 1800.'

Occasionally, a publisher crosses the line of legality and makes outright deceptive claims and the authorities can take action. More often solicitations are cleverly worded and only careful evaluation discerns the truth of the offer.

A free brochure entitled, *Genealogical Records in the National Archives* is available from the National Archives and Records Administration, Publication Sales Branch, Washington, DC 20408.

The Board of Certification of Genealogists, PO Box 5816, Falmouth, VA 22403-5816, upon request, will provide a list of persons who do research for a fee.

The National Genealogical Society, 4527 17th St., North Arlington, VA 22207, has available a publication, *Suggestions for Beginners in Genealogy*. Send a business size SASE with your request.

Traditionally, coats-of-arms were granted to one individual alone and passed on to a family member by rules of male descent. Some mail order companies claim to research a family's coat-of-arms, but there is no guarantee of any direct kinship or right to inherit the arms.

You may obtain additional information about genealogy and heraldry from your local libraries and genealogical/historical societies." Betty D. Griffin.

(Editor's Note: The above is an editorial that was printed in the April 1995 From the Quill ISSN 0898-607X with permission from Betty D. Griffin, General Manager, Better Business Bureau, serving Catawba & Lincoln Counties, NC. From the Quill is a publication of the North Carolina Society of Historians, Inc.)

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The N.C. State Archives is located in the Archives and History/State Library Building at 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, in the block between the Governor's Mansion and the State Legislative Building. The Search Room is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday (9:00-5:00 on Saturday). It is closed on Mondays, Sundays, on Saturdays following Friday holidays, and on official state holidays. Mail should be addressed to the NC State Archives, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-2807. Phone: (919) 733-3952. Fax: (919) 733-1354.