



NEWSLETTER

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

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Number 4

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

Dear Members,

Another year is almost gone. Our Historical meetings have been very interesting and well attended. Thank you so much for your interest.

Our November 11th meeting will be held at the Bolivia Town Hall at 7:30 P.M. A very interesting program on the Moore's Creek Battleground will be presented by Mr. D. Hayes Hawes.

The February 1997 meeting will be announced at the November meeting.

Hope each of you have had a glorious summer between the raindrops of Bertha, Fran, Josephine, etc.

Mark your calendar for November 11th. See you at the meeting.

Lottie Ludlum, President

SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT...LOTTIE LUDLUM
VICE PRESIDENT...FRANK GALLOWAY
SECRETARY/TREASURER...GWEN CAUSEY
NEWSLETTER...GWEN CAUSEY
DIRECTORS...J. HOLDEN, G. CAUSEY, L. BLAKE, H. TAYLOR

TAR HEEL QUOTES:

The ill-fated gobbler, were he a wise bird, would roost higher and make himself scarce during the daytime for the next few weeks.

Henderson Gold Leaf, November, 1897

Money is so tight some people don't have any loose change.

Wilson Mirror, 1889

Herbs and Other Home Cures

During the horse and buggy days there were few doctors in Brunswick County. One of the first doctors was Dr. Ben McNeil who lived at Supply and treated patients at his office and went to homes when called. Next Dr. Goley had an office at Supply. Later, he moved to Shallotte. Dr. J. Arthur Doshier practiced in Southport. At Town Creek, Dr. Goodman practiced and Dr. Stone was a physician at Little River, S. C.

Since travel was slow and difficult most of the doctoring was left to the mothers, grandmothers, and midwives. No one called a doctor unless it was an emergency.

Almost every family had a vegetable and herb garden. Herbs filled many needs-- cooking, seasoning, pickling, and medicinal purposes.

A lady that knows alot about home cures and remedies is Mrs. Annie Bryant. When asked about early home remedies she stated that medicine is all around us.

Mrs. Bryant is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Samuel James Bryant. She grew up in the Royal Oak and Cedar Grove communities. She tells about her parents and neighbors using roots and herbs for home cures.

As the wife of Harry Bryant and the mother of six children she has had many opportunities to use the home remedies and cures she knows so well.

So, the next time you're caught without a breath mint, just dig up a calamus root and chew on it. Or, if you have a headache soak some wilted collard leaves in vinegar and place on your forehead. It's sure to cure the headache and it won't cost you a \$40 visit to the doctor's office.

HOME CURES AND REMEDIES

Mrs. Annie Bryant

(From interviews on October 29, 1981 and May 5, 1986)

- Wilted collard leaves saturated with vinegar to sweat fever; also good for headache, place around neck.
- Sassafras tea to break out measles on a child; also fever, high blood pressure and asthma, also chicken pox, smallpox.
- Catnip tea for babies.
- Grease fried from chicken fat to grease babies when they were small to make a pretty skin instead of baby oil today.
- Calamus root tea for bellyache, also sweeten breath; could be used in root or tea form, carry to church and use as a breath mint; found in damp places along river or swamps.
- Gourd leaves on body to cure fever (couldn't stand smell).
- Rabbit tobacco (also known as Life Everlasting) makes a good tea for fevers, laryngitis, congestion.
- Peachtree leaves make tea to wash hair, lather like soap; also dysentery.
- Savannah possum tails (green, running plant) boil and use to wash hair, to make a salve mix with hog fat and boil till liquid gone. Use as a hair dressing.
- Wormwood tea (bitter as gall) use for fever, high blood
- Cornmeal poultice apply to boils to draw out pus.
- Venus fly trap - put on boils to draw out pus.
- Figs - cut open and place on boils.
- Balm in Gilead - sticky, gummy part (around each leaf) in whiskey and use for congestion, also sores, boils.
- Coon grease - use for cold, strep throat, croup, congestion, anoint (rub) face and put 1 drop in each nostril and apply to bottom of feet.

- Gunpowder - Mix two shells with animal feed to bring afterbirth from cow.
- Mistletoe - To cure "bag problem" of cows (when cow became fresh and milk would curdle instead of flow).
- Sea water from Brown's Landing - wash sores to cure them.
- Hops - Herb used for fever and hives.
- Shoemaker root - good for dysentery (has fan-shaped leaves and grows in high land soil).
- Purge grass (grows in savannahs) - make tea, use for constipation.
- Low bush myrtle - Chew root for dysentery.
- Swamp lily root - tea for disease of the rectum (piles), boil and add grease, bathe the spot.
- Garlic - (usually stayed away from it because of high odor) high blood.
- Tanzy - good for menstrual pains and problems.
- Breast milk - squirt into eyes to cure sore eyes.
- Broomgrass - split straws and boil in water till it gets "ropy" and drop into eyes.
- Myrtle bush - under bed to disinfect house (gets odor out).
- Oyster liquid - earache, lukewarm, can use clam liquid.
- Kerosene - used for throat conditions, put on wool cloth and band it around the throat, also put one drop on sugar and swallow.
- Appletree bark - good for kidneys, make tea.
- Chicken fat - "try" it out and keep for a rubbing ointment.
- Square box root - kidney stones, tall flowery weed and a square root, made tea.
- Onion juice - roast onion, hold over person's ear and squeeze into it for earache.
- Lard and red pepper - head lice.
- Sulfur and hog lard - mix and apply to body for nine nights for seven year itch and then wash clothes and bed clothes in washpot to kill lice.

- Fodder placed around a sick person to sweat fever (bind the person with fodder).
- Sweet bay leaves - use in cracklins' (from hog killings) will flavor them.
- Wild sage - cold, croup; may sweeten with honey.
- Green pinetop tea - good for colds, boil pinetops (needles) cut lemon into it.
- Pennyroyal - mint tea
- Jerusalem oat seeds - used to get rid of worms, make syrup with molasses or honey and seeds.
- Persimmon tree - bark used for throat conditions, dyptheria, make tea out of it.
- Red oak bark - tea, boil bark and sweeten with honey or sugar.
- Catnip, nutmeg, and mint - used as a tea to stimulate babies; sweetened with honey or sugar.
- Mullen leaf - (gather when dry) a tea used for dropsy (swollen feet), bathe the feet.
- Mustard leaves or seeds - Crush and mix with grease, make a poultice and put on head or toothache, add cornmeal to prevent blistering the skin.
- Black gum tree - toothbrushes.
- Aunt Dina's Linament (bought from store) rub on arthritis.
- Cherry bark leaves - make tea for high blood.
- Mint tea - can be used as a table tea, clear up sinuses.
- Asafetida (bought from store) good for chest and lung conditions, add vinegar, tallow.
- Marrow of hog jaw bones - a salve for kernels in throat or groins, crush and mix with soot and anoint person.
- Heartleaf - used for heart trouble, use as a tea or salve.
- Underholly - Tea for table drinking, good for stomach trouble.
- Clay - eat during pregnancy.
- Honeysuckle ball (fruit) - eat during pregnancy.

Health in Brunswick Town

Brunswick Town as a port of entry, for many ships from various foreign and domestic ports, was vulnerable to all sorts of sickness or diseases and the fact that the town was surrounded by lowland swamps and large ricefields did not add to the healthiness of the locale. These areas were the breeding grounds for the anopheles mosquito, carrier of dreaded tropical malaria fevers. Research has turned up contrary facts as to the healthiness of Brunswick Town, as Governor Arthur Dobbs stated that he moved to Russellborough near Brunswick Town as he found it much more healthful than in Newbern. It certainly must have agreed with him for at the ripe old age of 73, he married a young maiden of Brunswick who was fifteen years of age.

Other evidence not so delightful appears in the graveyard of St. Philips Church where tombstones mark the graves of many infants and young adults who passed away due to many strange and unknown causes. Death, especially the death of young children, was common place during the colonial era. In 1772, almost every child in Charleston - about 900 - died of measles. About 40 percent of children throughout the colonies died in infancy, the mortality among mothers was exceptionally high, and the likelihood of anyone reaching a "ripe old age" was remote. Indeed the average span of life was slightly more than thirty years - about half that of the present day.

Death dominated people's thoughts and they went in for extremely gloomy sentimentality. During the 18th century the science of medicine was beginning to come out of the witchcraft era. The mainstay of professional medicine was bleeding. This was done in the treatment of pneumonia, malaria, or an upset stomach. Also blistering the skin was used to treat internal disorders. Violent purges and other weird potions were administered and the stonger patients survived them. Almost everybody took a day off once a month or so to "take physic", whether he needed it or not, to rid the body of poisons. The colonists were beset by an appalling array of death-dealing diseases: Malaria, dysentery, typhoid fever, yellow fever, consumption, scurvy, influenza, typhus, measles, scarlet fever, and smallpox. Few colonial physicians could boast a medical degree but Brunswick Town was fortunate to include among its inhabitants, a graduate of medical school, Dr. John Fergus. The majority of physicians during the colonial period received their training as apprentices to an established doctor.

In America there were no medical schools until 1765, no licensing authority for physicians, and no hospital until 1755 and that was in Pennsylvania, and there were very few medical books available. Surgeons were classed with barbers and had no high social or professional standing in the community. Thomas Jefferson said that whenever he saw three physicians gathered together he always looked aloft for a buzzard. A colonial newspaper in New York said "that People live to a very great Age" due to the scarcity of doctors. A doctor observed in 1721 that the verse in Ecclesiasticus of the Holy Bible applied well to doctors when it said "He that sinneth before his Maker let him fall into the hands of the physician." Only colonists with the strongest constitutions could survive both the disease and the cure.

Perhaps the slowest medical progress in colonial days was in obstetrics. Midwifery - or the delivery of babies was left largely to women. The first record of a man doing work of this sort was in New York in 1745. Psychiatry was virtually unknown, though there must have been many "mental cases." As mentioned before, the state of surgery was deplorable; it consisted chiefly of amputations without anesthetics - the closest approach being liberal use of liquor or the chewing of a bullet. Dentistry consisted chiefly of tooth-pulling and false teeth were made from either wood or hippopotomas ivory. Men who had many teeth extracted wore "Plumpers" - little ivory balls to fill out their cheeks. We have portraits of George Washington with and without his plumpers. Barbers, clock-makers or wig-makers sometimes were the dentists of the neighborhoods.

The physician also served for many years as pharmacist since druggists were scarcely known outside the very large towns. He made up his own drugs and carried them about with him in his saddle bags. He would prescribe "my pills" or "my syrup." Most times the basic ingredients of these concoctions were toads, vermin or waste parts of animals, on the theory that if a potion could be made loathsome enough it would drive out the disease. The patients, or victims, of this therapy rightly accounted their recovery a miracle. In Virginia, the charges by the physician for most common drugs were in terms of tobacco, such as laxatives would cost from 20 to 50 pounds of tobacco, opiate pills would vary from 20 to 100 pounds of tobacco, etc.

For "common ailments," almost every home had its "medicine chest" of household remedies. Medicinal herbs, sometimes grown in the backyard, were widely used. By the middle of the 18th century, it is true, calomel, quinine and a few other medicines were being used by the better doctors, but the most prevalent treatment of almost every ailment, from the common cold to the most deadly fever, was "bleed, purge and sweat." This jungle attributed to a Quaker doctor perhaps described the colonial medical practice best:

"When patients come to I,
I physicks, bleeds and sweats 'em.
Then - if they choose to die,
What's that to I - I lets 'em."

By William Faulk, Jr. - Dir. Brunswick Historic Site



History of Holden Beach

Before the American Revolution, early settlers seeking land near Lockwood's Folly River applied for patents and received warrants for surveys of selected tracts. Upon payment of fifty shillings for each hundred acres, the warrantee could receive a permanent grant from Royal Governor Arthur Dobbs.

Benjamin Holden in 1756 bought four mainland tracts and the island between his plantation and the ocean. This island extended from Lockwood's Folly Inlet west six miles to Bacon Inlet. Benjamin and his sons used the island for fishing and cattle grazing.

John Holden, Benjamin's grandson, started a commercial fishery on the island, and in 1924 surveyed a section which he called "Holden Beach Resort," the plat of which represented the first subdivision of beach property in Brunswick County. In 1925 he built the first Holden Beach bridge; it was subsequently destroyed by the Inland Waterway construction. "Mr. Johnny" negotiated with the State, but he did not live to see the public ferry placed in 1934.

Luther Holden, John's son, operated the hotel that his father had built, started development of the property nearby, and became a permanent resident in 1946. Soon afterwards, other developments were started west of the ferry location.

By 1954 the island had about 300 houses and a tumbidge. After that year's destructive Hurricane Hazel, rebuilding was slow at first; but on February 14, 1969, the island was incorporated, and on May 13, 1986, the Town of Holden Beach dedicated a new high-rise bridge giving better access to its 1700 homes that exist on the island in 1992.



**St. Phillip's Parish
1763
Head of Household Listing ***

Allen, Drury	Lay, Enus (Lea)
Bell, James	Lay, John (Lea)
Bennett, William	Leonard, Henry
Benson, Nathan	Leonard, Samuel, Sr.
Bradley, William	Leonard, Samuel, Jr.
Cains, Christopher	Lord, William
Campbell, John	Ludlum, Isaac (Sr)
Caulkins, Jonathan	Ludlum, Jeremiah
Dalrymple, John	Ludlum, John
Danford, John	Marlow, James, Sr.
Daniel, John, Sr.	Mitchell, Joseph
Davis, Elizabeth	Moore, Schenkling
Davis, Jehu	Morgan, John
Davis, John, Sr.	Morris, William
Davis, Roger	Munro, Revel
Davis, Thomas	Nanson, Richard
Dick, Thomas	Neale, Thomas
Doane, Nehemiah	Neale, William
Dobbs, Arthur (Governor)	Newton, Joseph
Dry, William, Sr.	Paine, John
DuPree, Josiah	Perison, Thomas
Egan, Darby	Porter, Edward
Eagle, Richard (Estate)	Potter, Miles
Ellis, Robert	Quince, Richard, Sr.
Espy, Usher	Ready, Thomas
Fergus, John	Richinard, George
Furnel, Algernon	Riley, Richard
Gause, William	Rowan, John
Generatt, Elias (Estate)	Sampson, Jeremiah
Gibbs, John	Sellers, Elisha
Gibbs, John	Simmons, Isaac, Sr.
Grissette, George	Simmons, Isaac, Jr.
Grissette, William	Simmons, John
Grooms, John	Simpson, William
Hall, William	Smeeth, David
Harnage, Jacob	Snow, Robert
Harrison, Joseph	Spears, William
Hasell, James	Sturges, Jonathan
Hasell, James, Jr.	Swain, David
Hewett, Ebenezer	Thomas, John
Hewett, Richard	Vernon, Nancy
Hewit, Joseph	Waldron, Jacob
Hewit, Randolph	Watters, Samuel
Hickman, John	Wilkinson, John
Hill, George	Willets, Hope
Hill, William	Willets, Samuel
Holden, Benjamin	Wingate, Edward
Holland, John	Wingate, John
Howe, Robert	Wotton, Christopher ¹⁴
Keeter, Charles	

* Secretary of State Papers # 837

Cape Fear historian dies at 84

By JEFF SELINGO

Staff Writer

An authority on the history of the lower Cape Fear region, historian, author and developer E. Lawrence Lee, died Friday of natural causes at Lake Shore Commons in Wilmington. He was 84.

Two of his books, *The Lower Cape Fear in Colonial Days* and *History of Brunswick County*, written for its bicentennial, are known by historians as the definitive records of the area. He is also the author of *New Hanover County: A Brief History*, and at the time of his death was compiling his memoirs with the help of Susan Taylor Block.

"Among other gifts he was a master wordsmith who both in writing and conversation had a charming command of immense vocabulary," said Ms. Block, who met Dr. Lee in 1988.



Lee.

Historians will best remember Dr. Lee as the man who "re-discovered" Old Brunswick Town. His early research of deeds and excavation at the site convinced state officials of the historical and archaeological significance of the town, Ms. Block said.

But because of his modest personality, he was never properly credited for his key role at Old Brunswick Town, said Diane Cashman, the archivist at the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society.

"As a very little boy he was fascinated with Old Brunswick Town," she said. "It was his life's dream to discover and find it, then the state later did all the excavations."

Dr. Lee donated his library, including colonial records of the area, to the historical society.

"He was a southern gentleman who has done a lot for this community," Ms. Cashman said. "I was in awe of him"

Born Jan. 1, 1912, Dr. Lee was the first baby baptized at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wilmington.

Both his undergraduate and graduate work was completed at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After graduation he moved to New York to become a certified public accountant with Arthur Andersen and Company.

Although he considered Wilmington home, most of his adult life was spent in Charleston. Between 1956 and 1977 he taught history at The Citadel, where he was named professor emeritus when he retired. He moved back to Wilmington in 1992.

Lee's Cut at Wrightsville Beach is named after him, for his development work there. He also developed Harbor Island.

"He had a very clever sense of humor and was brilliant from his historical work to his development," Ms. Block said.

Dr. Lee had dictated 72 pages of his memoirs when he died.

Mary Borden Wallace Lee, his wife of 47 years, died in 1987. He

was the grandson of Maj. James Reilly, who formally surrendered Fort Fisher on Jan. 15, 1865.

Surviving are two sons, Lawrence B. Lee, a U.S. attorney in Atlanta, and James Reilly Lee, a surgeon in Georgetown, S.C.

A prayer service will be held at 7 p.m. Monday in Andrews Mortuary Market Street Chapel.

DR. E. LAWRENCE LEE

Dr. E. Lawrence Lee, a resident of Lake Shore Commons, died Friday, October 18, 1996, at his residence.

He was born in Wilmington, N.C., on January 1, 1912, the son of the late Enoch Lawrence Lee and Janie Reilly Lee and was the widower of Mary Borden Wallace Lee who died in 1987.

Dr. Lee was a certified public accountant with Arthur Andersen & Company in New York. He then obtained a master's degree and Ph.D. in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and taught at The Citadel from 1956 to 1977, where he was a Professor of History.

He was the author of several academic books concerning the history of the Cape Fear Region, among them being, *The Lower Cape Fear in Colonial Days*, and a book entitled, *Indian Wars in North Carolina*. Dr. Lee was involved in the initial excavation and archaeological work in Old Brunswick Town. He was a veteran of the United States Army serving in World War II, and was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church.

Surviving are two sons, Lawrence B. Lee and wife, Linda Ramsay of Savannah, Ga., and Dr. James Reilly Lee of Georgetown, S.C.; also three grandchildren, Borden Lee of Charleston, S.C., Shannon Lee and Ramsay Lee.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, October 22, 1996, in St. Mary Catholic Church by the Rev. Bernard E. Shlesinger III with interment to follow in Oakdale Cemetery.

A prayer service will be held in Andrews Mortuary Market Street Chapel at 7 p.m. Monday and the family will remain afterwards to receive friends.

Andrews Mortuary Market Street.

WANTED!



DOUGHBOYS

The North Carolina Division of Archives and History is interested in interviewing World War I veterans as part of an oral history program that will eventually target veterans of all twentieth-century conflicts. Of the 86,467 Tar Heel veterans of World War I, it is estimated that no more than two-tenths of one percent are alive today. We need your help to locate those survivors who are willing and able to recall their experiences in the war.

We are also interested in finding photographs of soldiers in uniform to be copied for placement in the Archives.

If you know of a World War I veteran who you feel will be a good candidate to be interviewed for this project, or if you are in possession of a photograph of a veteran, please contact Jo Ann Williford at (919) 733-7305.

REWARD:
THE PRESERVATION OF
NORTH CAROLINA'S MILITARY HERITAGE.