



NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME XXXVII

NOVEMBER, 1997

NUMBER 4

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

Dear Members,

It is time for our Historical Society meeting-- November 10, 1997 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Town Creek Recreational Park in Winnabow, NC. Our speaker will be Margaret Shelton. Mrs. Shelton, owner of Shelton's Herb Farm, will talk about Heirloom Herbs.

The February meeting will be Feb. 9, 1998 at the Brunswick Community College Southport campus. Susie Carson will speak on "Southport and Two World Wars." The next Newsletter will contain articles about Southport and the surrounding areas.

This year, 1997, has gone by so swiftly. It is hard to believe that this is our last meeting of the year. I think we have made some progress in our planning. The coming year I hope we can make our plans a reality. Our Treasurer reports a bank balance of \$904.76. We need to be committed to our projects and our Society.

As you can see by our Membership List our membership is at an all-time high. Our Editor, Gwen Causey, has spoken on behalf of the Society to two Ladies' Clubs. At each meeting she promoted the Society with a brochure and a request for new members. Both clubs made a donation to the Society. During November she will speak to two more groups. Each have promised a donation. We need to publize our Society and encourage others to join. Speak to the young people in your church and community.

If your know of a speaker or topic you would like to hear tell us. We strive to make our meetings of interest to you.

Mark the above dates on your calendar and I look forward to seeing you.

Lottie Ludlum, President

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Fort Caswell was erected on the eastern tip of Oak Island in 1836 to guard the mouth of the Cape Fear River. The fort, which originally stretched across 2,800 acres to the present boundary of Long Beach, was considered one of the strongest forts of its time, capable of receiving an armament of 64 guns and a garrison of 400 men. Perhaps because of its strength, the pentagonal-shaped fort was never engaged in battle. In fact, its most formidable foes have been hurricanes.

Wilmington Morning Star
October, 1997

1946 - WHO OWNS SUPPLY? LAWYERS UNCOVER DEEDS TO BRING UP QUESTION. by Bill Keziah. Southport, N.C., Aug.18. - Tracing deeds at the court house this week the law firm of Frink and Herring ran across records of a matter which escaped all historians and is unknown to any of the present day inhabitants, of Brunswick county.

In Book K at page 357 they found a deed covering 3½ acres of land on Lockwoods Folly River (at Supply) from Cornelius Galloway to Ulyssus Rourk. Instead of defining the boundaries of the tract in the present day fashion, the deed described it as "That former public land whereon stood the court house and the jail and which is well known to need further description."

The deed from Galloway to Rourk was approved and ordered registered at the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Session at the March session in 1834. The indentures having been made on the preceding February 25, 1834. Natch Potter attested the paper as Clerk of Court.

The finding of this 1834 deed, revealing the entirely unknown point of Brunswick county history, started a search for earlier records of the county seat at Supply. Since the deed was from a private citizen to another private citizen it naturally followed that at some time previously the county had the court house site to Galloway or to some other individual who sold or transferred it to him. Nothing of this nature was found and, save for this deed to the former court house and jail site at Supply, nothing is known regarding when Supply became the county seat or when the county government was transferred to Southport.

A good many years ago the wooden court house at Southport was destroyed by fire. Lost in the fire was many of the records in existence at the time. In fact, this Book K with the deed of sale of the court house and jail site at Supply, seems to have been the only book saved that preserves any evidence that Supply was at one time the county seat of Brunswick county.

The names of both the seller and buyer of the former court house site are very general ones in Brunswick county. Richmond Galloway who operates the oldest business in Supply is understood to be a great great grandson of Cornelius Galloway. His store is situated on or directly across Route 130 from the former court house site. Incidentally it may be said that Mr. Galloway now owns all or a part of the former court house site. Lockwoods Folly township has a great many Galloways, about all of whom are believed to be descendants of Cornelius Galloway.

Although the family is less numerous, the name Rourk is hardly less known than that of Galloway in the Shallotte section. For many years the late Judge Peter Rourk of Supply and his brothers operated a turpentine still on the banks of the river. They inherited the business from their father. The Rourk still was undoubtedly on a part of the original court house site.

U.L. Rourk, of Leland, Chandler Rourk of Shallotte, Chas. Rourk, Bolivia; Crawford Rourk, of Southport, and other Rourks in Brunswick county are understood to be direct descendants of Ulyssus Rourk. WILM.STAR, 8-19-1946.

1946 - OAKDALE CEMETERY RECORDS - Elizabeth Clair Galloway (Mrs.George R.), 53 years old, widow, died 3-25-1946.
Born in Goldsboro and died in Southport, N.C.
Interment in Section R., Lot No.31, owned by George R. Galloway.

1946 - (Photograph) - COMMISSIONED - Ensign Ray M. Galloway, 19 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Galloway, Oleander apartments, arrived today to visit his parents after being commissioned as a deck officer in the United States Naval Reserve at Duke university yesterday. He has been assigned to duty in the Pacific and will report to San Francisco on July 10.
WILM.NEWS, 6-25-1946.

JAMES W. ALBRIGHT DIARY
Southern Historical Collection #1008
Chapel Hill
(James Albright was from Greensboro)

(Part 3 of a 3 Part Series)

February 1: Went to Wilmington after forage. Got a blanket and a pair of shoes from Quartermaster Department.

February 2: Saw first wild violets of the season.

February 8: The corn mills in this country deserve some notice. There are no flour mills - as no wheat is raised. The mills are about the size of a hen coop - say 10 by 15 feet and are generally on very high upright timbers, which gives them a singular appearance. But there are plenty of them.

February 15: Went to the post office (Supply) kept at the home of a Mr. Mercer - saw a house full of young ladies. This is by far the most intelligent family I have seen in this country - outside of Smithville. Had nice library and loaned me the "Vicar of Wakefield".

February 18: Went to Wilmington and found the Advance was in and had about 1/3 of our goods (Sterling, Campbell and Albright). Telegraphed firm and agreed to meet them here next Saturday. Saw first shoes - \$22 a pair, didn't buy. Slept out under ambulance and it snowed during the night - covering us fully three inches. It was very cold.

February 19: Met Julius A. Gray from Greensboro. Went back to camp.

February 21: Went again to Wilmington in hopes of meeting Mr. Campbell, but failed to do so - so spent a restless night at hotel and arose early and went through the market - which was a sad looking place for a hungry man - don't see how they live here. Paid \$16 for supper, lodging and breakfast. Met Mr. Campbell. Spent the day with him. Saw Engineer Ed Dick on an iron-clad nearly ready for action - went over it, but think I had rather fight on land. Was quite sick with flux. Transacted my business with Mr. Campbell and went back to camp.

February 23: Captain Young's battery was under orders to march - to be relieved by Captain Adam's battery. Headquarters remain here.

February 24: The woods are on fire in several directions - great clouds of smoke hang around the horizon. I have seen the mountains on fire - have read of prairies on fire - but a fire in an old turpentine orchard, overgrown with rank grass and weeds - every tree coated with rosin for 10 or 20 feet from the ground - presents an awful and sublime sight. I never knew what a power uncontrolled fire was before. The roar of the flames could be heard a great distance - as the fire leaped from tree to tree - 20 feet or more above the ground - like living bodies all aflame. Never read of anything more grand or terrific.

March 12: Spent the evening with the Misses Gilbert. The water is very high. Saw woodbine, jessamine and peach trees in bloom - looks like spring.

March 24: Went oystering - only 2 blockaders in sight.

March 25: Had quite a blow and old ocean roared fearfully to me, although 8 miles distant - would like to have been on the coast. A large bald eagle has been screaming around camp all day.

March 27: Went to church with the Misses Gilbert. Heard a good sermon; but a child in the gallery disturbed the meeting by an "unmentionable" youthful indiscretion - which damaged a young lady's hat. I also saw two rascals cheat the preacher out of \$2 each by getting the usher to change \$10 for them. They got \$2 each - instead of giving - not paying a cent.

March 30: Received furlough and was delighted at the thought of seeing all at home once more.

March 31: Went to coast and got some oysters to take home with me. One Yankee vessel in sight. Gregory's old horse, "Arab", threw me over his head in the sand and got away from me - and I had to walk 8 miles to camp - and lost my oysters and temper.

April 1: On reaching Wilmington found the steamer Advance was in. Soon met "Uncle Jack" (J. J. Ayers) our agent at Bermuda and learn 39 cases of our (Sterling, Campbell and Albright) goods were aboard. Took tea on board the Advance and Ayers and myself left at 10:00 p.m. on train for Greensboro. Couldn't get transportation - so had to pay my fare.

April 18: Got to Wilmington about midnight and put up at Palmetto House and enjoyed a good sleep.

April 19: Found some of Webb's men - got baggage in their wagons and started on foot - 15 miles to camp - disagreeable walk, as it rained all the time. Met all the boys of our company who gave me a cordial reception and a good dinner of stewed fish, which I enjoyed very much. All well but found Captain Gregory gone and Barksdale appointed Sgt. Major; bad swap, I fear.

April 20: The camp is a very pleasant place, 14 miles from Wilmington on the east side of the Cape Fear - 3/4 miles from the river and 1/4 mile from the ocean. The breeze is fresh and strong from the sea - trees nearly half clad with leaves - all nature seems fairly alive down here. Took a stroll on the beach and watched old ocean roll. The two heavy guns at "Cattling Battery" were firing at some wrecks on the beach. The shots were good. The Yankees fired some 10 or 12 shots at something higher up the beach - no damage done.

April 21: No name for camp yet - but I shall head my notes - "Confederate Point" - that being the name of the peninsula formed by the river and the ocean. (This spot was where Carolina Beach now stands). Went to a fishery on the river and saw them hauling a sein - hard work, but good pay. The principal catch is hickory shad, mullets, cats, flounders, hogs and gars - with some small sturgeon. The night was one of great confusion, but I did not get up - though I could not sleep. The Yankees landed about 8 miles above us and destroyed the State Salt Works, near Masonboro, capturing about 50 men - not soldiers. We ought to have had some troops nearer.

April 22: Went fishing with hook in the river - no bites. Visited the wrecks of the Venus and Hebe - two fine blockade runners - which are beached near here. Took a bath in the salt water and was washed off the deck and came near being drowned. Shall not bath in a vessel again - but take the open sea. The fight at Plymouth, North Carolina, was a fine victory for us. If God would only give us a victory over Grant peace would soon dawn upon our cause.

April 23: Had a fine breakfast of fish - a present from Deans, J. Tomey, L. W. McMullen and others. Eight blockaders are off Fort Fisher and an attack is expected - so a large force went down and lined the beach until daylight. No Yanks came near - but two nights before some landed and did some meanness. A very nice little yacht was found on the beach - supposed left there to aid negroes to run off.

April 24: Captain Gregory came down and spent night with us. Webb's battery was ordered up to Masonboro, as it was reported the Yankees had landed a force there.

April 25: Went seining in Cape Fear. Boat swamped and Jess, Johnson and myself got a ducking in the river. Johnson could not swim and was very much frightened. He clung to the boat and I got it ashore - Jess Wharton saved the sein - and Wyatt, who held the land line hauled him in. Caught a nice mess of fish - among them three stingrays, the first I ever saw. Tore sein nearly into. Young's battery has joined Webb's here. Much firing below this evening towards Fort Fisher.

April 26: Rode down to battery Anderson - a good sand battery - mounting one heavy rifle gun. Good letter from Miss Mattie. The mosquitoes are very troublesome and if they grow worse as the weather gets warmer we can't live here. Firing above on the coast this evening.

April 27: Firing below. The pickets reported Yankees landing six miles above. Our forces turned out but could not see them.

April 28: Saw three Yankee vessels pass. Are building quarters for the Major near the sound where we will have a fine view of the sound and ocean also. No firing today which is unusual. Heard Neil Sterling was dead - very sorry for he was a good boy and the pride of his parents.

April 29: Received letters from sister and Bob - saying Ma is rapidly sinking. If I could only be with her - it would be great satisfaction to her and me - but such is the lot of a soldier - our dearest loved ones may pine and die - while he is waiting the pleasure of officials. It will be useless for me to ask for a furlough - for I have only just had one.

May 1: Wrote a "blue" letter to Miss Mattie - for I dreamed Mother was dead, and oh, how it weighs upon my heart.

May 2: Moved our camp down to the sound - a lovely place in a grove of live oaks right on the sound and in full view of the ocean - not half-mile distant. Fixed up well now. Received letter from brother Bob, and oh, how my heart was pained to hear Mother was dead. I had feared this and had schooled my heart to meet the shock yet we are never prepared for such news - to know that a mother I loved so devotedly was dead and I not with her to receive her parting blessing - is hard, hard indeed! While my aged Father is kind and good to me - no one can fill a mother's place in my heart. They have lived so long together I know his heart is sad. May God bless him is my prayer!

ADDENDUM TO ALBRIGHT DIARY

The following newspaper clipping is pasted between pages 94 and 95 of the diary.

Special to Daily Industrial News
Wilmington, N.C. Jan. 30

A storm which raged along the North Carolina coast last Thursday and Friday night, tore into and washed ashore a part of the old blockade-runner Hebe which was driven ashore under the fire of the Federal blockaders during the Civil War.

The vessels Hebe and Dee plied between Wilmington and the West Indies and were lost just off Wrightsville Beach. A part of the Hebe has always been visible at low tide and when there have been celebrations on the Beach it has afforded an excellent target for the soldiers in using rapid fire guns and one-pound Hotchkiss.

Among the articles washed upon the shore was a part of the vessel's shaft, an old carving knife and an iron safe. The door of the safe was gone but still in it was part of a small gold chain.

A portion of the old wreck is still visible opposite the large new pavilion known as "Lumina."

Company "G"
20th Regiment North Carolina Troops

CLEMMONS, WILLIAM H., PRIVATE

Enlisted at Fort Johnston on May 10, 1862, for the war. Present or accounted for until wounded at Gaines' Mill, Virginia, June 27, 1862. Returned to duty on an unspecified date and was captured at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1, 1863. Confined at Fort Delaware, Delaware, until transferred to Point Lookout, Maryland, October 15-18, 1863. Paroled at Point Lookout, on May 3, 1864 and transferred to Aiken's Landing, James River, Virginia, where he was received May 8, 1864, for exchange. Returned to duty in November-December 1864, and was present or accounted for until paroled at Appromattox Court House, Virginia, April 9, 1865.

This company, known as "Brunswick Guards" was raised in Brunswick County where it enlisted on May 25, 1861. It was mustered into state service at Camp Howard, Brunswick County, June 19, 1861, and was assigned to this Regiment as Company "G". After it was mustered into the regiment the Company functioned as a part of the regiment, and its history for the war period is reported as a part of the regimental History.

North Carolina Troops 1861-1865, Volume 6, Infantry, page 493-4-5.
Raleigh, N. C. State Department of Archives and History 1966.

FORT ANDERSON

SOURCE: War of the Rebellion-Records of the Union and Confederate
Armies Series I - Vol.47 - Part 2.

Pages 492-493

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

Fort Anderson, February 19, 1865

(Via Fort Monroe, 9 a.m., 23d. Recd 10.55 a.m.)

LT. GEN. U.S. GRANT, City Point, Va.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to report the success of our operations against Fort Anderson and the adjacent works on both sides of the Cape Fear River. Yesterday, while the gun-boats maintained a heavy fire upon Fort Anderson, I pressed the enemy on both sides of the river and sent a force under General Cox about sixteen miles around a swamp to turn the enemy's right. This force made its way along a narrow defile between two swamps and completely turned the enemy's position. As soon as the movement became known to the enemy he abandoned his works and retreated toward Wilmington. We captured ten guns uninjured and a considerable amount of ammunition. We have about fifty prisoners. The loss in killed and wounded is small on either side. The troops are pursuing the enemy and the gun-boats are moving up the river. Fort Anderson and its collateral works are very strong and rendered almost inaccessible by swamps. A small force could have held them until their supplies were exhausted. My information is that the rebels have a line of defense behind Town Creek where they propose to make a stand. If so, it can probably be only a short one. Only four brigades of my troops have arrived from Washington, and no transportation but I will keep at work with what I have.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FORT ANDERSON

SOURCE: War of the Rebellion- Records of the Union and Confederate
Armies Series I - Vol.47 - Part 2.

Page 493

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE OHIO

February 19, 1865

(Via Ft. Monroe, 9 a.m., 23d. Recd 10.55 a.m.)

LT. GEN. GRANT:

Day before yesterday Cox's division moved to Smithville and then toward Fort Anderson. Yesterday it closed up on Fort Anderson and intrenched a line, under navy fire, close to the enemy's to be held by two brigades. With the balance of his command and Ames' division, which had been sent to Smithville, Cox then was started on the flank movement for the rear of Fort Anderson, making about ten miles by dark. The enemy evacuated Fort Anderson during the night and the lines in front of Terry this morning. They will at once be followed toward Wilmington.

C. B. COMSTOCK

Lt.Col., Aide-de-Camp, & Brevet Brig.General



It is interesting to read the local Wilmington newspapers that were published during the years of the War. The paper printed all sorts of announcements regarding not only laws but also rules of behavior that needed to be followed.

These articles appeared in 1863:

NOTICE

The ordinance forbidding bathing within the limits of the town between Harnett and Castle Streets, or other indecent exposure of the person will be rigidly enforced in all instances.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The ordinance forbidding the riding of Horses on the sidewalks or standing on the same will be rigidly enforced in all instances. ~

As with today's paper, the Lost and Found columns were an important feature. It is doubtful, though, that in 1996 we would find someone on Market Street involved in a search like the one in Mr. Hooper's ad of 1863:

STRAYED

From the enclosure of the subscriber on Market Street, a small red pointed cow. Any person who will return said cow or give information so I can obtain her will be suitably rewarded. ~

You can enjoy looking back at the Wilmington of yesterday through the wonderful newspaper microfilm collection in the NC Room at the library.

A Colonial Fort and Liberty Pond

A short distance below Fort Anderson, on a bluff called Howe's Point are the remains of a Colonial Fort, and behind it the ruins of a residence in which tradition says was born in 1730 one of the greatest heroes of the revolutionary war (General Robert Howe). He was the trusted and honored Lieutenant of Washington. Robert Howe also lived at Kendal Plantation for a while which is now part of Orton Plantation.

The nearby Colonial fort was erected long before the Revolution as a protection against buccaneers and pirates. Later it was used as a defense strong hold against the British who finally drove out the americans and forced them back to Liberty Pond about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in the rear. At this Pond a stand was made with americans on the west and British on the east side and it was said the battle caused blood to stain the water within the pond.

Captain Sam Price corroborated these facts saying that the Howe house was a large three-story frame building on a stone or brick foundation on Howe's point near the old fort just below old Brunswick (Sprunt, 1896).

Presently the area is owned by the Federal Government at Sunny Point.

It is not known how much of the site still exists because the whole area has been modified by the Federal Government. However Liberty Pond is now known as Orton Pond and presents a beautiful example of a Historic Natural Landmark. This Pond was also used as the irrigation source for Orton Plantation's Rice Fields and can be viewed by the public.

Brunswick County Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP LIST 1997

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Babson, Bobby | *24. Holden, Judy | 47. Taylor, Helen |
| 2. Babson, Emma | 25. Holden, Marita | **48. Thompson, Doris |
| 3. Bennett, David | 26. Holden, William | 49. Trede, Judith |
| 4. Benton, William | 27. Holtz, Doreen | 50. Trede, Peter |
| 5. Blake, Lucille | 28. Keal, Catherine | 51. Williams, Henry |
| 6. Butler, John | 29. Keal, Edgar | 52. Willis, Eulis |
| 7. Carson, Susie | 30. Kirby, Jim | 53. Wyckoff, Peter |
| 8. Causey, Gwen | 31. Ludlum, Anson | 54. Brunswick Community College |
| 9. Clemmons, Charles | 32. Ludlum, Lottie | 55. Brunswick Town State
Historic Site |
| 10. Cornwell, Sherry | 33. Meares, Crystal | 56. Columbus County Library |
| **11. Cumbee, Kendall | 34. Mercer, Ernestine | 57. UNC Library
North Carolina Collection |
| 12. Eggert, Susan | 35. Mintz, Mary | |
| **13. Filipski, Judith | 36. Moore, Betsy | |
| 14. Galloway, Frank | 37. Neroni, Anne | * Life Member |
| 15. Gause, George | 38. Pierce, Amarette | ** Dues are paid for 1998 |
| 16. Green, Trudy | 39. Potter, Tom | |
| 17. Grohman, Bertha | 40. Royal, Mary | If a member would like to
correspond with another
member, let the Editor
know and arrangements
will be made. |
| 18. Grohman, Fred | 41. Royal, Rudolph | |
| 19. Haley, Caroline | **42. Ruark, Jim | |
| 20. Harden, Mabel | **43. Russ, Brenda | |
| 21. Hawes, Hayes | 44. Strecker, Helen | |
| *22. Holden, John | 45. Strecker, Henry | |
| *23. Holden, Johnsie | 46. Taylor, Edwin | |

Resource

Birmingham's Samford holds many surprises for genealogists

by Steve Smith

Set down those bags and put a hold on that trip to Ireland — at least until you've been to Alabama. If you thought crossing the water was the only way you were going to learn anything about your Irish ancestors, then no one told you about the "secret" collection of Irish genealogical material in Birmingham.

That collection, at Samford University, may be the largest of its kind outside Dublin itself. According to Marilyn Miller Morton, executive director of the school's Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, family tree climbers who visit Ireland in search of vital ancestral data often end up poring over records that have duplicates here.

No one is trying deliberately to keep the Irish collection a secret. But then, the extent and depth of Samford's overall genealogical collection is not as widely known as it should be — especially considering the fame of the annual research institute.

The week-long institute has been held each June for 27 years. A three-week research trip to the British Isles follows in July.

Offering courses for beginning and advanced students, and enlisting some of genealogy's most regarded experts as instructors, the institute fills many of its classes months in advance. You don't need to attend the institute to make use of Samford's special collections, though.

The Samford campus is set amidst tree-covered hills just "over the mountain" from Birmingham proper, in the suburb of Homewood. The Special Collection Department is on the third floor of the Harwell G. Davis Library, one of the main buildings facing the horseshoe driveway leading from the main entrance to the university. The building can't be missed — look for the clock tower.

Baptist archives are here

In addition to the Irish holdings, the Special Collection Department has a large amount of material on the Southeast and on Alabama in particular. Reflecting the university's Baptist sponsorship, the department is also a gold mine for anyone researching that denomination in the South. If your ancestors

included Baptists — and you can link them with specific churches or even just specific locales — you might well find them here, amidst the church minute books and other denominational records. (If your ancestors were Baptists *and* in Alabama, why haven't you already visited Samford?)

Most of the special collection material is kept in closed stacks, which may be part of the reason its existence is not more widely known. It's easy to imagine a casual visitor wandering in, looking over the relatively small open-stack area, and concluding that there is nothing extraordinary here — just a basic reference collection such as can be found at numerous libraries with genealogy sections.



Samford University

The open area is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg, though. Department head Elizabeth Wells Crabtree and her staff will gladly and patiently assist visitors in exploring the rest of it. Find what you need listed in the card catalog or other index, and they will bring it to you. Not sure what you're looking for? They will be happy to make suggestions that will help you focus your search.

Mrs. Morton was tour conductor the day I visited Samford. Although we were together a long time, the size of the holdings precluded her from doing much more than explaining the general layout of the collection and pointing out a few of the highlights.

We started in the main room, the only area I had seen before. The card catalog is here, and so is a sign-in book where visitors can note their particular research interests. The card catalog includes subject and author-title indexes, as well as separate indexes to specific parts of the

collection such as manuscripts and Alabama newspapers.

Much of the manuscript material comes from the collection of Maude McClure Kelly. The first female lawyer south of the Ohio River, she practiced in Birmingham around the turn of the century but later left law to work at the Alabama Archives in Montgomery. She also did professional genealogical research, and the papers she amassed were eventually donated to Samford. The manuscripts are card-indexed by individual names, family names, and locations.

Newspapers are indexed

Newspapers include religious and secular publications, mostly from Alabama but including many from other states. There is a set of *The Alabama Baptist* going back to its beginning in 1843. Issues from 1843 through 1870 have been indexed, as have issues from recent years. According to Mrs. Morton workers are hard at it "madly indexing" the rest.

Baptist church minutes are indexed in the same card catalog as the manuscripts. As with the newspapers, the actual items have been placed on microfilm. A microforms reading room (with a microfilm printer) adjoins the main room.

A set of shelves on one side of the main room contain standard genealogical reference books. On the opposite side of the room, locked cabinets house a large number of books, some of them rare, that were collected over many years by Birmingham lawyer William Brantley. The Brantley Collection is especially strong on southeastern Indians, the Civil War, and Alabama state government. Staff members will unlock the cabinets on request.

In the far end of the main room (it makes a sort of L-turn) are the open shelves. Books here are grouped by state, starting with Alabama (the other states are in geographical order, starting in the northeast). Typical of items here are county and town histories and compilations of local source records, such as marriages and wills. Southern states —

particularly Virginia and the Carolinas in addition to Alabama — are well represented; there is also quite a bit on Pennsylvania thanks to the interests of the late F. Wilbur Helmbold, long-time head of the Samford library, author of the popular beginner's book, *Tracing Your Ancestors*, and a native of the Keystone state.

Finally, the main room contains a solid collection of genealogical periodicals and a nearly complete set of census indexes for the Southeast. These indexes include some special state and county censuses in addition to federal head-counts; there is even an index for a census of the Mississippi Territory (out of which Alabama and Mississippi were carved). The department has some of the census records themselves on microfilm, though not as many as the downtown Birmingham library has.

Alabama Room is information lode

A lode of Alabama-specific material lies down the hall from the main room. It's called — what else — the Alabama Room. Contents of interest to genealogists include proceedings of Freemason lodges in the state, records of the DAR and UDC, Indian material such as W. Lumpkin's *Removal of the Cherokee Indians from Georgia 1827-1838*, Birmingham city directories, and much religious material — not all of it on the Baptists. For example, *History of Methodism in Alabama and West Florida* and *History of Methodism in Alabama* are good sources for names of early Methodist ministers in the state. Journals of the Catholic diocese of Alabama, from the 1920s, are here.

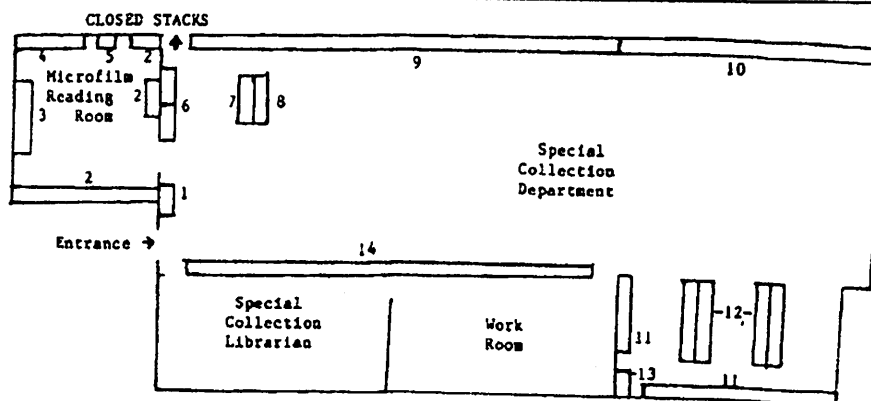
There are also several books on Jewish genealogy and history in the South. The Alabama Room is a great resource, but it's another of the treasures the casual visitor might not see unless he asks about it.

Stacks are huge, diverse

On my tour with Mrs. Morton, the best part — the closed stacks back of the main room — was saved for last. Dwarfing in volume everything I had seen so far, the material here includes not only the huge Irish collection, but also books on about every conceivable genealogical or historical subject, plus manuscripts, cartons of family papers, and drawers of microfilm reels whose titles range from *History of Baptist Indian Missions* to the Federal Writers Project's *Slave Narratives*.

As throughout the Special Collection Department, religion is strongly represented in the closed stacks. Numerous books deal with religion on the frontier and with groups of settlers united by particular religions. There's a lot on the Baptists, of course (including Primitive Baptists, whose records are relatively scarce since they never went in for missionary work or aggressive proselytizing) — but there are also Quaker records, Huguenot histories, a *Mennonite Encyclopedia*, and so on.

Samford's genealogical collection deserves to be better known. With the university now celebrating its 150th anniversary (and with Sesquicentennial fundraising efforts aimed at helping the library), this seems like a good time to spread the word. Birmingham's genealogical "secret" is out.



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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Subject catalog | 8. Alabama Baptist index |
| 2. Microfilm readers | 9. Brantley collection |
| 3. Microfiche readers | 10. Open stacks |
| 4. Microfilm cabinets | 11. Census indexes |
| 5. Microfilm reader/printer | 12. Genealogical periodicals |
| 6. Author/Title catalog | 13. On-line indexing computer |
| 7. Information index | 14. Reference |

Special Collection Hours:
 8 a.m.—8 p.m. Monday
 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Tues–Fri
Telephone:
 205-870-2749 (Special Coll.)
 205-870-2748 (Main Library)

Baptists in the South: How they got that way

Baptists are so much a part of today's southern "establishment," it's easy to forget they once were looked upon by some as radicals.

Many a southern family tree holds people who ignored Anglican displeasure to found Baptist congregations in backwoods Virginia or the Carolinas. Often these dissenters were motivated by doctrinal concerns. But there were practical reasons for the rapid growth of Baptists on the frontier, one being a lack of ordained clergy. Isolated churches could and often did make do with lay preachers, whose down-to-earth, even passionate, style better suited anyway the needs of people used to the rough frontier. Baptist congregational autonomy also was congenial to the situation of these scattered groups.

Baptist ministers became community leaders and often led migrations of followers to new territories. David T. Bailey writes, in *The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, about one such minister, the Rev. Lewis Craig. Craig in one instance took 500 members of his "traveling church" from Spotsylvania County, Virginia, to the Bluegrass region of Kentucky.

Emphasis on conversion as the central event in a person's life positioned Baptists to reap the harvest of the Great Revival that swept the region at the beginning of the 19th century. Blacks embraced the Baptist religion as readily as did their white neighbors (or owners).

It was race and specifically slavery (and, more broadly, sectionalism) that led to a split among Baptists and the creation of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845. Southern Baptists' missionary zeal and devotion to southern cultural values, especially in the unsettling times following the Civil War, helped it to become the major denomination in the region.

Black Baptist congregations grew as fast as their white counterparts after the war, and these churches played key roles this century in providing leadership and encouragement to the Civil Rights movement.

The story of Baptists in the South is woven tightly with the story of southerners generally. A search in the Samford records might be just what is needed to fill in the blanks on the family charts. Ask for Shirley Hutchens — she's the resident expert on Baptist records there.