



NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME XLIII

AUGUST, 2003

NUMBER 3

AUGUST MEETING TO BE HELD AT BEMC IN SUPPLY, NC
AUGUST 11, 2003 7:30 P. M.

THE NEXT MEETING of the Brunswick County Historical Society will be held in the Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation meeting room, 795 Ocean Highway West, Supply, NC. Remember we always meet the 2nd Monday of February, May, August and November at 7:30 P. M.

THE SPEAKER will be Lynn Benson from Carolina Beach, NC. Her topic will be "How We Can Find Out About Our Background." She will help you discover facts about your family and will give useful information on how to research your family history and/or prepare a family tree. Write down your genealogy questions and bring them to the meeting. It will also be helpful to bring any family information you have. Don't forget to bring paper and pen to take notes.

ONE OF OUR MEMBERS, Richard D. Eisenman, was elected President of The Moores Creek Battleground Association at their annual meeting on April 12, 2003. The Association, established in 1899, is the oldest continuous support group for a national park site. Mr. Eisenman is a Past President of the Lower Cape Fear Chapter Sons of the American Revolution and the Wilmington Council Navy League.

Named Summits of Brunswick County, NC

This data was extracted from the United States Geological Survey GNIS Database. The datum for the positional coordinates was not given. The extraction took place in November 2000 and the contents of the GNIS database is subject to continuous change. All coordinates are north(+) latitude and west(-) longitude

<i>Summit</i>	<i>Elev</i>	<i>Topo</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
Myrtle Head	45	Juniper Creek	34 08 39	078 29 07
Sand Hill	55	Freeland	34 05 53	078 31 34
Sand Hill	35	Lewis Swamp	34 09 20	078 07 58

SOCIETY OFFICERS 2000-2003

President: Henry C. Williams
Vice-President: Bertha Grohman
Secretary: Helen Taylor
Treasurer: Gwen Causey
Directors: Lucille Blake, Johnsie Holden
Newsletter: Gwen Causey

MEMBERSHIP LIST---2003

1. Johnsie Holden, Life Member
2. Judy Holden, Life Member
3. Sheldon & Janice Pigott, Life Member
4. Tammi Cooke, Life Member
5. Mary Mintz, Life Member
6. Sherry Cornwell, Life Member
7. Brunswicktown State Historic Site
8. Brunswick Community College
9. New Hanover County Library
10. NC Collection, UNC
11. Columbus County Library
12. Ft. Wayne Public Library
13. Anne Neroni
14. Floyd Phelps
15. Warren Phelps and 2004
16. Ouida Hewett
17. Roberta Brady and 2004 and 2005
18. Sonja McCutcheon
19. Carl E. Swain and 2004
20. Charles Harper
21. Larry Maisel
22. Lillian Batson
23. Don Jenrette
24. Larry Bailey
25. James Harrington
26. Helen Taylor
27. Edwin Taylor
28. Ernestine Mercer
29. Mildred Mercer
30. Jan K. Dale
31. Rudolph Royal
32. Henry Williams and 2004
33. Jim Marlowe
34. Eloise Gibson
35. Rose Hadnot
36. Connie Schutte
37. Hubert Inman
38. Bertha Grohman
39. Lucille Blake
40. Doreen Holtz
41. Sarah McNeil
42. Martha Shipman
43. Grover Holden
44. Glenn & Kay Kye and 2004
45. Eddie & Carol Beauvais and 2004
46. Janie Parker
47. Joe & Clara Carter
48. W.E. Bellamy, Jr.
49. Jarvis Baillargeon
50. M.L. Sellers
51. Susie S. Carson
52. Nellie Sue Creech
53. Richard Eisenman

54. Pat Kirkman
55. Kendall Cumbee
56. Harvard & Hulaine Holden
57. Franklin & Maxine Koontz
58. Dave Lewis
59. Beverly Pearson
60. Annie S. Bracken
61. Arty Phelps
62. Clara M. Robinson
63. James D. Green, Jr.
64. Tammy Sellers
65. Wayne Cole



HOW TO GET INFORMATION ON THE
CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

The enrollee or the enrollee's next of kin may request discharge papers. Discharge papers are the best source to find the company and camp(s) the enrollee was assigned to. Specify the name that the individual was enrolled by (Last, First, Middle) or Nickname. If the individual was born before 1903, a death certificate must accompany the request. Send to:

National Archives and Records Administration
National Personnel Records Center
Civilian Personnel Records
111 Winnebago Street
St. Louis, MO 63118

Once you have the discharge papers, then you may be able to get additional information relating to the camps and/or company your ancestor worked.

You can receive CCC information from the National Archives by calling Mr. Gene Morris, Civilian Records, Textual Archives Services, College Park, MD, at 301-837-1993. If possible, you will need to know the camp designation number. With this, he can quickly tell you how much information is available and approximately how much it will cost to have it sent. If you only know the company number, it helps to know where the company was stationed before or after the camp location you are looking for. If the camp was at or near a national forest, the forest nearest the camp location may have information, some still have the original reports from their CCC projects.

Other information is not indexed, but is available or study at the National Archives in Washington, DC. This includes camp and company reports.

Susan Usher Eggert

"I CAN'T FEEL THE SPIRIT OF WRITING"

Editor's note: Letters were the primary source of communication between families and friends during the Civil War. The letters that have survived give us a glimpse of the war from a different perspective. Young soldiers poured out their hearts to their loved ones expressing their hopes, their fears, and their loneliness. Often letters gave details of activities not written about in the official record. The McEwen family lived in the Brown Marsh section of Bladen County, NC and served in Captain George Tait's Company NC Volunteers (later designated 2nd Company K [Bladen Artillery Guards], 40th Regiment NC Troops) organized in Bladen County, but mustered into service at Fort St. Phillip on May 15, 1862 and remained there through August 1862. These letters were written by Pvt. Archibald D. McEwen.

Fort St. Phillip July 8, 1862

Mrs. S.C. McEwen

Dear Wife,

I embrace this opportunity of writing you a few lines in answer to your very kind and affectionate letter which came duly to hand the 4th of this month and I was so glad to hear from you and all my Friends on the Marsh. Kate you do not know what pleasure it affords to read your letter of the 4th. Kate we did not have to drill any that day and when I got your letter, it made me feel almost like I had seen you but it was no{sic} so, but it was the next thing to seeing you, yourself. Kate, I must now tell you something about my health. I am as well as I can expect to be down here. Kate, if you could see me now you would see a good deal of difference in me now and when you saw me the first time, I think that I will soon be fat if I can get a plenty to eat. Kate, I am very much bliged {sic} to you for the _____ and apples. I gave William half of them and had my part of them for dinner the 4th and enjoyed my self as good as I could down here, but that was not like being with you, although it was the next thing to seeing you, yourself. Kate, I want to get home mighty bad but I do not know when I can come. There is nothing new down here only Col Lamb left us and gone to Fort Fisher and J. A. Richardson is in command here now and I think it is quite likely that we will soon leave here and go to Fort Fisher or to Zeek's Island. Captain Tait do not like to be under him and I think that he will soon leave here and go over there. I do not want to go myself but a good many of the Company about to go. Kate, I have not bin {sic} on guard since I came down here but it is my time a Thursday and I must try it again. Kate I have just bin {sic} to the boat looking for a letter from you but did not get any. I was in hopes that I would get a letter from you but am disappointed. Kate, I wish you would write to me oftener if you can. I want you if you have not got paper nor envelopes nor stamps for you to send with someone. Get some and write offener {sic} if you can. If I had them and the opportunity, I would send you some but I am nearly out and have not opportunity of getting any till I get the chance to go to Wilmington or to go home and I do not know when that will be again. Kate, you must not let the postage of letters stop you from writing to me for it was fifty cents a letter I would write to you. Kate there is not much sickness in our camp no {sic} all as well as usual. Dear wife, I have nothing to write to you that is interesting or satisfactory. Dear wife I hope that this will find you well and hearty and all the friends. So you must write to your affectionate husband and tell him all the news or anything that would be interesting. So farewell Dear wife. Write soon to your affectionate husband.

Fort Anderson, NC
January 21, 1865

Dear Kate:

Yours of the 13th met me retreating from Bald Head. We evacuated on the 15th burnt everything that would burn and came over to Smithville remained there but a short time before we received marching orders. We are now garrisoned at Fort Anderson, don't know how soon we may (?) be compelled to leave. There are several vessels of the fleet in the river below us. Genl Hoke is on the other side of the River opposite us we hear their pickets and sharpshooters every hour in the day sometimes it seems to me that is more than picket firing. Dan & John were both at Fisher from Friday night until the fort was reduced was at 11 o'clock Sunday night. I am anxious to hear from them. I am afraid both are killed. The assault was made on the Fort at 3 o'clock and reports says the Yankees threw down their guns and took their bowie knives and cut the throats of the wounded even. We heard that 3 Companies E, G, & D did not surrender until the last man was killed. I can't believe that tho. No one would be so foolish as to make an effort to resist when overpowered. I don't see how they could live (?) at all when there was 150 shells bursting at them every minute for 28 (?) hours. It was a fearful sight to be at a distance from it. How much more fearful to have them hurled toward us. There was one Regt of Hoke's Brigade in the fort. Don't know which one. It really seems that we are a whipped people we get the worst on every side. I think Fort Fisher would have been in our hands today had Genl Bragg let Genl Hoke attack the evening we (?) he asked him to do so. Bragg has had bad luck where ever he has been and always will he is too fond of retreat or too fearful of being taken by the enemy. I heard today that the prisoners captured at the Fort were on Bald Head. I also heard that they embarked on Monday for Point Lookout which is true. I think as the news came by a negro who made his escape on Monday night. He had to crawl about half a mile by the pickets after passing the Yank pickets he had to run the Blockade by Hoke's lines. Our men have very rough times here they eat, sleep and drink in the trenches and by their guns in the Fort. It had been raining and blowing ever since yesterday. I am writing now in the Govt stables at Anderson which are my Head Quarters any place to keep the rain off. I slept in the stables last night & night before. I can't say when I'll go home not soon tho. I am so uneasy about Dan & John. I can't feel in the spirit of writing. I will write you again when I get to a place I can seat myself and have time. I keep my horse saddled day and night. Direct to Fort Anderson.

As ever yours

LANCASTER CEMETERY

Turnpike Road, Supply, NC

John Newman Lancaster, Jr.
October 18, 1917
September 26, 1993
U.S. Navy WWII

Vuena Robinson Lancaster
November 3, 1921

Married April 25, 1937
Children: Mary Ann & Lou Ellen

Edward A. McLelland
January 3, 1941
April 10, 1998

Norma June McLelland
April 24, 1943

Jimmie Patterson
February 21, 1915
August 4, 2000

Dula "Jill" Patterson
April 6, 1920
October 13, 1995

Married September 23, 1934
Children: Lanier & Shirley

Curtie R. Thompson
November 29, 1923
July 10, 1996

TALES OF THE GREEN SWAMP, BRUNSWICK COUNTY, NC WITH BIOLOGICAL NOTES

By: Rick Murray

[Editor's note: Beginning in the early 1990's, Rick Murray traveled through various areas in the Green Swamp becoming oriented as to the roads, streams, etc. Along the way he met many interesting people who took him under their wings and introduced him to a simpler way of life. What followed was an unpublished manuscript of personal glimpses, bear, panther and snake tales, customs and culture of the people, wildlife journal notes and photographs. Below is an article on trapping and an interview he conducted.]

TRAPPING

In the 1990s, trapping for pelts or meat is seldom, if ever, done anymore. The economics of the activity are no longer feasible

In the past, steel traps (or in the case of Beaver, choke traps) were used. It was necessary to skin the animal and stretch the pelts to make them marketable. At least one man ran a business buying hides and meat. In that case, the catch needed to be delivered whole, within a few hours. It was necessary to use traps which were not excessively powerful, as an animal which incurred a complete break of the leg bone would gnaw the skin and muscle through and escape.

Two other types of trap were used to catch birds. Young boys would practice on Sparrows, Cardinals, Jays, etc. Serious trapping involved Bob White Quail and Turkey.

The TUNNEL TRAP was made with one inch biddy wire (chicken wire). A basket was formed and a wire tunnel was made to form an inverted dome with a side opening. Quail would enter at the opening to obtain the bait (corn or other grain). When the trapper approached, the birds ran along the edges of the basket and gradually flattened the tunnel, at which time the opening closed up.

Another trap was used to catch turkeys. First, turkeys were baited in the open with corn, usually under oak trees which attracted the birds, anyway. After they were in the habit of feeding there, a hanging trap made of small sticks was suspended over the feeding area. This trap was gradually introduced, one piece at a time. When the trap was complete, it was attached to a ground treadle, which was a movable platform attached by wire to the trap above. The trap was weighted. When a turkey moved the treadle, the trap would drop over it. Only one turkey at a time was obtained.

Bear Trap

A large steel trap containing jaws with teeth was set out. It was attached to a log or long chain. When the bear got caught, it would drag the log or chain until it got tangled in bushes. Trappers followed the trail and shot the bear.

LIVE TRAPPING

Zoos and roadside exhibits at one time purchased enough animals to make trapping feasible. Naturally, this called for a much different technique in order to obtain specimens in good condition.

One basic type of trap was a cage about 24" x 36" made of heavy gauge wire. It had a door which could be closed, and latched, by connecting it to an interior treadle. When the trapper arrived a box or bag was attached to the back of the trap. The back could be unlatched and the animal would retreat into the box or bag. Then it could be sealed off.

The preferred animals were Raccoon and Bobcat. Foxes, and occasionally an otter, were also captured. Many 'Possums were caught, but these were released. They were not salable.

Some kind of fish was usually the bait. For Bobcat, a Rabbit was good bait.

Interview of Layton Carlisle - May '94

Background - Mr. Carlisle has hunted extensively all his life in and around Green Swamp. He is thoroughly acquainted with the wildlife there.

"Well, yes, I did see a cougar, or panner as some call it, a few year ago.

"We was drivin' along the Roberts Road about a mile from Juniper Creek Hunt Club, an' as we come near some thick bushes, there was this black animal in the bushes, an' my wife said, 'There's a bear.' Well, we come closer, an' it come a little bit out of the bushes, an' I said 'That ain't no bear, that's a cougar.' 'Cause it was slim and cat shape, and had a long, thin tail. Mebbe it was deer size, but with shorter legs.

"Well, it come in the road. We was close an' it got skeered an' made a big leap across to the other side an' disappeared.

"We stopped an' looked at the marks in the dirt. They was long scratch marks like an animal will make when it jumps sudden-like.

"This happened in the early afternoon of a sunny day."

FIRST RIDE ON A TRAIN

This was the Experience of a Man Raised in 33 miles of Wilmington --- Never Was in the City Before

The STAR had a pleasant and interesting visit yesterday from Capt. A.T. Clark, of Bolton, Columbus County, and Mr. Lemuel Phelps and Capt. C.C. Little, of Makatoka, Brunswick County. They were returning from Burgaw, where they had gone as witnesses in the big suit of the North Carolina and New Jersey Land and Improvement Company against Stopher, involving the large area of lands in Green Swamp, Brunswick County. Captain Clark is agent for the land company, and is exceedingly popular with all the people in the area under dispute. The case was continued.

The interesting part of the visit was a chat with Mr. Clem (Lemuel) Phelps. He is a man of 64 years of age, has lived within 33 miles of Wilmington and was never in the city till last Tuesday when he came up on his way to Burgaw. Heretofore he has never been fifty miles from home, and has never been out of his native county but once. He was a Confederate soldier during the civil war and was then in service at Little River, S.C., a few miles from his home across the border. He has a wife and seven children, all of whom are grown, and is a man of independent means, owning a farm and being engaged in the turpentine business all his life. He never rode on a railroad train, and indeed never saw one until he came up to Wilmington on Tuesday. He greatly enjoyed the exhilarating ride and is no doubt sorry that he has never taken the trouble before to go to the railroad and take a trip. He lives only 30 miles from the railroad and says while he had often heard Wilmington spoken of and wanted to see the city, he has felt that he was too poor and too busy to leave home. He said he had no idea that Wilmington was such an immense city and that he was pleased with what he saw. He took a ride on the trolley cars and was astonished to see them glide along without any sign of the power that propelled them. The electric lights were equally a wonder to him. Southport, the county seat, a small village is the largest town he ever was in. His trip was a revelation to him, but the facts above related about him will more deeply interest people than he was in the sights in which his eyes have beheld at this late day in a land of civilization.

... The Morning Star Newspaper
Wilmington, NC
September 9, 1904

CLEMMONS' STAGE

From Head of Wilmington, Charlotte, and Rutherford Railroad, to Wadesboro and Charlotte. Fare from Railroad to Wadesboro, only 50 cents. Tickets from Wilmington to Charlotte, only \$10.

C.T. Clemmons,
Contractor

(Ad appeared in the December 29, 1870 issue of The Morning Star, Wilmington, NC.)

GOOD TIMES, BRIGHT LIGHTS.....WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

By: Marjorie Megivern
Supplement to THE BRUNSWICK BEACON, June, 1989

If you were looking for a good time in the South Brunswick Islands back in the 60s, you had plenty of choices. You might look in on the Go-Go girls at Gene's Theater near Supply; you might dance to a good local band at Shallotte's American Legion hut or hear a nationally - known artist perform upstairs at Ebb Tide in Holden Beach. You could even catch a double feature at the Holiday Drive-In, or go bowling, picnicking, or square dancing. Your teenagers could enjoy school dances and church socials.

All these options and more were available 20 years ago, when residents and visitors to this county weren't as apt to jump in the car and travel to Myrtle Beach or Wilmington for their fun.

Performer and song-writer Gene Simmons, is part of this entertainment past and present. Now experiencing a comeback, he remembers the heyday of Ebb Tide, where he first sang and played guitar in 1965, along with such luminaries as Jerry Lee Lewis and saxophonist "Ace" Cannon.

"After my first visit here, I came almost every summer to perform," he said. "They had good seafood in the restaurant downstairs and the best artists upstairs. It could seat about 300 people and the place was always packed."

Lillian Robinson, who owned Ebb Tide with her husband, J. W. Robinson, said the club on its top floor was a big success. "We were ahead of our time with what we were doing, and we did good," she recalled. However, her husband's involvement in the racehorse business left her to take care of the demanding restaurant and club. The club closed in 1978 after 17 years in operation. Several years ago the Ebb Tide burned, ending an era.

Ouida Hewett, a longtime resident of the area, remembered a variety of entertainment from her youth. Even before the 60s, she said, Holden Beach boasted a bowling alley, skating rink, and dance pavilion, all swept away by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. "There was a dancing place at Shallotte Point, too, where we did lots of square dancing.

Hewett pointed out the role of churches in entertainment. "The first Sunday of May every year was Sunday School anniversary day and all the churches got together for a picnic," she said. "We went picnicking a lot; we had more good times than kids do now."

Another feature of county fun that has almost disappeared was the local band, composed usually of high school musicians. Bobby Causey, now minister of Church of the Way in Shallotte, was part of one of these groups.

"I played drums in the O. D. Grass Band," he said, "and we played in Myrtle Beach clubs and lots of places in the county, like the Moose Lodge, the Shriners in Bolivia, and Gene's Theater." At Gene's admission ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.50 allowed one to hear gospel groups, guitarists, and full orchestras.

Other members of Causey's band included his brother Steve, Ricky Thompkins, Michael Thomas, Lenwood Bellamy, and Terry Bellamy. Causey said he booked acts for Gene's Theater and played professionally for eight years.

Fraternal and service organizations like the VFW, American Legion, and Moose Lodge, once added to the social scene, but now the American Legion offers only weekly Bingo games and square dancing, and the Moose Lodge holds twice-a-year turkey shoots for the public. Its members and guests, however, can dance any Saturday night to live bands.

A self-proclaimed "country boy", Gene Simmons is enjoying renewed success in Europe already, where young people are discovering the 60s brand of country and rock and roll. "Over there, they've re-released all my records and teenagers dress up like we did in the 50s and drive 500 miles to hear me," he said.

A friend of the late Elvis Presley, Simmons is still remembered for his "Haunted House" record that hit a million copies, and he continues writing, publishing, and performing. "In this area, I play with a Whiteville band and by myself at the Islander and at lots of benefits."

Since Simmons and his colleagues entertained the crowds, nightlife has dwindled. Golf courses have taken over picnic grounds and video stores have replaced the need for movie theaters. Restaurant meals, for the most part, are consumed to the strains of canned music.

Entertainment hasn't disappeared in the South Brunswick Islands; it's just changed its focus. But, if Simmons is right, we may soon see a demand for country singers and rock and roll bands in local restaurants. We may dance again to oldies and the likes of Elvis and Jerry Lee.

Who knows? The Ebb Tide may have to re-open!

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Brunswick County North Carolina  
Minutes of County Commissioners 1878-1889

Page 104.....The Board then adjourned to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in March 1880...H. K. Ruark, Clerk

Page 103 Omission

State of North Carolina  
Brunswick County

The Board of Commissioners Sheriff and Superior Court Clerk being present met and formed a Committee for the relief of the Blind & Maimed for the county of Brunswick. When Samuel J. Summerset of said county was examined, and the committee find that Samuel J. Summerset was a private in Company G 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment under Captain Brooks Commanded by Col. (?) Overson, that he lost both hands in an engagement at the Battle of Gettysburg the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July 1863. The board being of the opinion that he is entitled to relief of the Blind & Maimed in such cases made and provided and we the Committee, so adjudge it is further ordered that the proceedings of the Meeting be Spread upon the Record and that the Same be Certified to the Governor of the State by the Clerk of Superior Court.

H. K. Ruark, Clerk

ITEMS OF GENEALOGICAL INTEREST  
*THE CAPE FEAR RECORDER, 1829-1833*

October 21, 1829 Married at Smithville, Brunswick County, N.C. on the 14<sup>th</sup> by the Rev. Mr. Cairns, Major S. Spotts, late of the U.S. Army to Miss Harriett Alexandene Clitherall, daughter of Dr. G.C. Clitherall of the U.S. Army.

November 11, 1829 Died at Smithville on the 8<sup>th</sup>, age 23 yrs. Mrs. Mary Morse, wife of Mr. Uriah Morse.

March 3, 1830 Married at Little River, in Brunswick County, on the 24<sup>th</sup>, by the Rev. Mr. Cook, Mr. Henry Nutt of this town [Wilmington] to Miss Louisa Frink, daughter of Samuel Frink Esq. of the former place.

