



# NEWSLETTER

BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO BOX 874, SHALLOTTE, NC 28459

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## AUGUST MEETING TO BE HELD AT BEMC IN SUPPLY, NC AUGUST 8, 2005 7:30 P. M.

The next meeting of the Brunswick County Historical Society will be held at the Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation Building, 795 Ocean Highway West, Supply, NC. The meeting begins at 7:30 P. M. Refreshments will be served at 7:15 P. M.

The speakers will be Gerald Parnell and Carroll Jones, members of the library staff at UNC-W. They will present a program on Plantations of the Lower Cape Fear. They will chronicle life during the 1700's and will give us an insight into the daily activities that took place on a plantation. Col. Alfred Moore Waddell had this to say on the manner of life of the proprietors on the Lower Cape Fear: "In the southern end of the province, at Brunswick and Wilmington, and along the Cape Fear, there were an equally refined and cultivated society and some very remarkable men. No better society existed in America, and it is but simple truth to say that for classical learning, wit, oratory, and varied accomplishments, no generation of their successors has equaled them." Come to the meeting and learn more about this interesting topic.

Again our hearts are saddened by the death of one of our members. Mrs. Johnsie Holden had been a members of the society since its inception and had served in many roles including President. Earlier another member, Edwin Taylor, died after a short illness. We express our heart-felt sympathy to the families of these two beloved and dedicated members. The society presented *The Coastal Chronicles, Volumes I & II* by Jack E. Fryar, Jr. to the Brunswick Community College library in memory of Mr. Taylor. We are grateful for the monetary donations made in memory of Mrs. Holden.

The Treasurer reports a bank balance of \$1,082.31. Total membership stands at 65. Talk with your friends and invite them to the next meeting. Don't assume they know about the society.

### Society Officers 2004-2006

President: Joe Carter  
Vice-President: Bertha Grohman  
Secretary: Kay Kye  
Treasurer: Gwen Causey  
Directors: Hulaine Holden, Donald Jenrette  
Newsletter Editor: Gwen Causey  
Refreshments: Janice Pigott  
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North Carolina Genealogical Society  
Presents  
Craig R. Scott and William H. Brown

November 11 & 12, 2005  
Annual Meeting and Fall Workshop

***FINDING YOUR MILITARY ANCESTORS***

Brier Creek Country Club  
9410 Club Hill Drive  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27617

***Program Lectures***

Craig R. Scott: Professional genealogical researcher, CEO & President of Heritage Books, Inc.

- "Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestor"
- "Researching Your War of 1812 Ancestor"
- "The Forgotten Wars"
- "Pension Research: Did You Stop Too Soon?"

William H. Brown: Archivist, Editor Governors' Papers, NC Office of Archives & History

- "Military Records of the American Civil War, An Introduction"
- "Civil War Military Records and Genealogical Research"
- "The Development of the North Carolina Militia & Home Guard, and Effect of Confederate Conscription Laws on Military Service"
- "Say, It Ain't Over!! An Introduction to Post-War Records with Genealogical Value for Civil War Research"

**Registration Form**

Registration Fees (lunch is included in price):

North Carolina Genealogical Society Member:

\$40.00 one day \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$70.00 two days \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Less Early bird \$5.00  
discount by Nov 4th \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member:

\$50.00 one day \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$85.00 two days \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Less Early bird \$5.00  
discount by Nov 4th \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration amt. from above \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2006 Membership dues

Individual \$40 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$45 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

[\$5 discount if paid by Dec. 1, 2005]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Make out check to "North Carolina Genealogical Society" and send with form to:

**NCGS Annual Meeting & Workshop, P. O. Box 22, Greenville, NC 27835-0022**

Walk-ins welcome, however lunches and workshop packet may not be available. A packet with motel information and directions will be sent to registrants. **Refund Policy:** Full refund if withdrawal precedes early registration date; between then and workshop day a prorated refund may be made; no refund may be made if withdrawal is on or after the first day of the workshop.

**For more information: <http://www.ncgenealogy.org> or email [ncgs@ncgenealogy.org](mailto:ncgs@ncgenealogy.org)**

**HOME LIBRARIES IN THE COLONIES**  
and a brief description of some of the gentlemen who owned these libraries

By: Gwen Causey

In their book, "**The History of a Southern State North Carolina,**" Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome included a section on books and libraries in the chapter entitled "*Religious and Cultural Development.*" The section reads as follows:

Books were not very numerous in the colony, and their very scarcity gave added importance to libraries—private, semiprivate, and "public." The earliest collections of books mentioned in extant records were those sent to the colony by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the most important of which was the so-called "free public library" sent to St. Thomas Parish, Bath County, by the Reverend Thomas Bray about 1701. This library seems to have been poorly managed in its early days, and a law of 1715 provided "for the more effectual preservation of the same."

After 1730 libraries became common among planters, clergymen, lawyers, doctors, and others who could afford them. Books were often listed in wills and inventories of estates, usually from twenty to fifty per family, but a few planters and professional men had large collections. The Reverend James Reed had 266 books, Edward Moseley 400, and Samuel Johnston, at Hayes, more than 1,000 volumes—the largest library in the province. These libraries usually contained books in the fields of theology, philosophy, political economy, history, literature, law, and medicine, among others. Greek and Roman writers were represented, as well as Shakespeare, Milton, Bacon, Locke, Voltaire, Swift, Addison, Steele, and many others. A few of the libraries had copies of leading English periodicals, notably *The Spectator*, *The Tatler*, and *The Annual Register*.

James Sprunt writes about the libraries on the Cape Fear in his book, "**Chronicles of the Cape Fear 1660-1916.**" In the chapter, "*Permanent Settlement*" he wrote the following:

It is to be much regretted that so few memorials of the social and intellectual life of the old Cape Fear people have been preserved. They enjoyed the elegance that attends wealth and they possessed libraries that bespeak culture.

When Edward Moseley was passing through Charleston in 1703, he was employed to make a catalogue of the library books there; and, on locating in Albemarle, he at once began the collection of a library. Later, he presented a library to the town of Edenton. When, about 1735, he removed to Rocky Point and built Moseley Hall, he brought his library with him.

But perhaps superior to Moseley's was the library of Eleazer Allen, at Lilliput. The inventory of this collection of books has been preserved. Made at his death, about 1749, it shows over three hundred volumes in English and Latin, including the standard works of that era—the classics, poetry, history, works of fiction, as well as works of a religious

nature; and, besides, some fifty in French, not only histories, travels, poetry, and fiction, but also French translations of the most celebrated Latin authors. One finds in that atmosphere a culture unsurpassed elsewhere in America.

The Hasells likewise had a good library; also Judge Maurice Moore; and Gen. John Ashe had one he prized so highly that he made special efforts to preserve it, but unfortunately it was destroyed during the last year of the Revolutionary War.

While there were libraries at the homes of the gentlemen in the country, at Wilmington there was the Cape Fear Library, one volume of which, at least, has been preserved—a volume of Shakespeare, with notes made by Archibald Maclaine, of Wilmington, a nephew of the historian Mosher, which are of unusual merit. Many of the Rocky Point books appear to have been collected at Lillington Hall, and others have been preserved in the Hasell collection. A part of the Hasell collection, embracing books of Moseley printed before 1700, of Alexander Lillington, and of others, has been placed in the State Library at Raleigh.

William S. Powell in his **“Dictionary of North Carolina Biography”** gives us insight into the intellectual lives of these gentlemen of the Cape Fear Region. The “family” was a group of 15 politically powerful, interrelated grantees who collectively owned 80,000 acres of land in southeastern North Carolina in the early 1700s.

**Eleazer Allen** (1692-7 Jan 1750) was born in Massachusetts to the former Mary Anna Bendall and Daniel Allen, a Harvard M. A. and librarian of the college. After the death of his father sometime before 1720, young Allen went to Charleston, SC, and became a merchant, apparently interrupting his college studies to do so; in about 1726 he returned to Massachusetts briefly and was graduated from Harvard. About 1722 he married Sarah Rhett, the eldest daughter of William Rhett, a leading figure in South Carolina society and business. One of Sarah’s sisters married Roger Moore, and through this family connection, Allen became interested in the lower Cape Fear region of North Carolina, where Roger Moore and his brother Maurice were among the principal landowners. Allen was the beneficiary of a large land grant given by proprietary Governor George Burrington to encourage settlement in the lower Cape Fear. At some time between 1725 and his permanent move to North Carolina in 1734, Allen constructed a plantation just north of Roger Moore’s Orton. He named his house Lilliput for the imaginary county in *Gulliver’s Travels*.

When George Burrington was chosen as first royal governor in 1730, Allen was nominated to a council seat but did not accept as he was serving as clerk of the lower house of assembly in South Carolina and chose not to leave. He served under Gabriel Johnston as a councilor. On 6 March 1735 Johnston and the council appointed Allen receiver general of quitrents for the colony. As was often the case in colonial America, appointment to one office led to others. Almost as soon as he arrived in North Carolina, Allen was made a justice of the peace for New Hanover County. He served on the commission that settled the boundary between North and South Carolina, and all of the commissions from both colonies met at Lilliput on 23 April 1735 to establish guidelines

for the survey. In March 1736 Allen became precinct treasurer of New Hanover; by October he was a judge of the court of oyer and terminer (court having jurisdiction over treason, felonies, and misdemeanors, i.e., Criminal as opposed to Civil matters.)

Despite problems with certain of his duties, his career continued to prosper. In March 1748 he was made an associate justice of the general court, the highest criminal and civil court in North Carolina. During his last year of life, Allen held two of the most important offices in the province. In October 1749 he was elected public treasurer for the southern counties and later in 1749 Allen was elevated to the chief justiceship of the general court.

At the time of his death the following year, Allen was a wealthy man who owned 1,285 acres of land and 50 slaves. The inventory of his estate showed sizeable holdings of silver and china. The dining room table at Lilliput sported 12 solid-gold finger bowls. Most impressive was a library containing more than two hundred English and fifty French titles. Reflecting his interests as a man of culture and provincial officer, Allen owned such books as Plutarch's *Lives*, Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, several navigation and surveying manuals, Fielding's *Tom Jones*, and Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*.

**Sarah Allen**, Widow, relict of the late Eleazer Allen, Esquire, made her last Will and Testament in 1761. In a very detailed and lengthy will she bequeaths her household and personal items to various nieces and friends. To her grand nieces Rebecca Dry and Susanah Hasell she gave all the books of Modern taste to be divided between them as equally as sets can be. And she request that the books be kept for their use and not to be lent out.

A manuscript inventory of Allen's library is in the Estate Inventories, 1753 Secretary of State Papers in North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh, NC.

**Edward Moseley** (ca. 1682-July 1749), colonial official, may have been the single most important political figure in the first half of the eighteenth century in North Carolina. He was a man of great and varied skills: politician, surveyor, book collector, vestryman, planter, and attorney.

Moseley was apparently born and educated in London. Of Moseley's early life little is known except that in December 1697, at age fifteen, he was apprenticed from Christ's Hospital (an orphanage) "in the Practice of Navigation" to serve on the ship *Joseph* under Jacob Foreland in the Bilbao trade. In May 1703 he was in Charles Town, SC, cataloging books sent there by Thomas Bray of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. About a year later he immigrated to the Albemarle region of North Carolina and in 1705 made a "good match" by marrying Henderson Walker's widow, Anne. Settling in the northeastern portion of Chowan Precinct, Moseley began carving out a sizable place for himself in North Carolina politics and society.

Moseley's major offices in the colony included justice of the peace and vestryman, member of the Proprietary Council, speaker of the Assembly, member of the royal Council, surveyor general, treasurer for the whole province, judge of the vice admiralty,

chief justice of the General Court and a member of the boundary commissions with Virginia and South Carolina.

Moseley moved from Chowan to Rocky Point on the northeastern branch of the Cape Fear in 1735. He had taken as his second wife (on the death of his first) Ann Sampson, the stepdaughter of James Hasell, who had ties to that region.

Moseley's association with books in South Carolina long remained a part of his life. In 1723 he donated seventy-six volumes (primarily theological works and church history) to Edenton to serve as the basis of a public library. At his death, his personal library exceeded four hundred volumes.

The following item appeared in the WILMINGTON SEMI-WEEKLY MESSENGER newspaper on April 5, 1898:

In 1720 Edward Moseley, member of the Royal Council and an able lawyer, and a leader in the State, "made a large donation of standard books toward a Provincial Library, to be kept in Edenton, the metropolis of North Carolina." This library was composed of 26 folio volumes, 12 quarto volumes and 36 octavo volumes. The private library of this gentleman must have been large as the remains, still extant, number, including periodicals of that day, some 300 or more books. Among them is an English prayer book printed in London in 1731, and containing the coat-of-arms of the Hasell family. This library was removed from the old colonial residence of Moseley Hall to Lillington Hall, to the owners of which is descended, and from thence to the summer residence on Masonborough sound, near Wilmington, of the family of the late Dr. Edwin A. Anderson, of this place, who married a granddaughter of Colonel Lillington, of Revolutionary fame. In the fire which destroyed Lillington Hall, many of the books were lost, in some instances breaking sets.

James Sprunt wrote in his "**Chronicles of the Cape Fear River**" about a visit he made to Lillington Hall. The Lillington Hall mansion was a quaint old structure of ante-Revolutionary date, and standing alone; there was no house that approached it in size or appearance in that wild region. When the writer visited there while a youth there was quite a library of rare old English books which would be highly prized at this day. At that time it was owned and occupied by Mr. Samuel Black, a highly respectable and worthy gentleman, who had married the widow of Mr. George Lillington, the youngest son of the colonel. This place, like all the residences of the early gentry, had gone out of the family into stranger hands.

**James Hasell** (d. February 1785), judge, councilor, and acting governor, was a native of Bristol, England, the son of James Hasell, a merchant. After immigrating to Philadelphia, where he remained briefly, Hasell settled in New Hanover County, NC around 1735.

Hasell married Susannah (or Sarah) Sampson, the widow of John Sampson; his stepdaughter, Ann Sampson, became Edward Moseley's second wife. Thus Hasell was early allied with one of the most prominent political leaders in the colony. He purchased

three town lots in Wilmington and became a justice of the peace in 1739. Within seven years he was one of the largest planters in the county, with over 2,000 acres of land.

Although he had no formal legal training, much of Hasell's career in the colony was tied to the higher courts—those above the county level. He served as chief justice of the General Court (and its later offshoots, both supreme and superior courts.) Governor Arthur Dobbs, who criticized his lack of formal training in 1754, saw fit to appoint Hasell chief justice again in 1758 on the death of Peter Henly.

At his death Hasell owned 12,000 acres of land. He left a large and varied library, his books bearing an engraved armorial bookplate. Many of them are now in the North Carolina Collection in Chapel Hill.

**John Ashe** (24 March 1725-24 October 1781), colonial legislator, Stamp Act patriot, and army officer, was born at Grovely in New Hanover, now Brunswick County, the son of Elizabeth Swann and John Baptista Ashe. The elder Ashe, who died in 1734, provided in his will for a sound, liberal education, including Latin, Greek and French, for his son. The son, a member of the Harvard class of 1746, although he did not graduate, entered professional life and settled on the northeast Cape Fear River; there he built a fine plantation house, Green Hill, in which he had an excellent library.

He served as colonel of the militia and in 1752 was elected to the assembly; in 1762 he became speaker of the house. A staunch patriot, he was a member of the committee of correspondence and of the committee of safety.

Ashe was married to his cousin, Rebecca Moore, sister of Judge Maurice Moore and General James Moore. To them was born four sons and three daughters.

Lawrence Lee wrote on the subject of education and other cultural activities in his book, "**New Hanover County...A Brief History**" the following:

People struggling to transform a wilderness into a civilized community found too little time for the refinements of life. Nevertheless, the value of learning was not forgotten and efforts to provide education were made to the extent that the circumstances of the time permitted.

Just as education was limited, so was the opportunity for other cultural pursuits. Because they were so isolated, those who felt the need for cultural sustenance found this lack to be a particular hardship. Books were one source of satisfaction and those who could afford to do so acquired home libraries.

Col. Alfred Moore Waddell in his book, "**A Colonial Officer and His Times,**" wrote of the manner of life of sixty-six prominent planters and their plantations on the Lower Cape Fear in colonial times.

In the southern end of the province, at Brunswick and Wilmington, and along the Cape Fear, there were an equally refined and cultivated society and some very remarkable men. No better society existed in America, and it is but simple truth to say that for classical learning, wit, oratory, and varied accomplishments, no generation of their successors has equaled them.

As a general rule they looked after their estates and kept themselves as well informed in regard to what was going on in the world as the limited means of communication allowed. There was very little display, but in almost every house could be found valuable plate, and, in some, excellent libraries. The Cape Fear planters of olden time were men of mark.

May 5, 2005

**Editor's Note:** This article was written and originally presented at the annual luncheon of the Friends of the Library of the Rourk Branch of the Brunswick County Public Library on May 6, 2005.



Alexander Simmons served in the 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment, North Carolina Infantry. He enlisted on May 10, 1862 and served at the Battle of Gaines Mill, a seven day campaign, and later at Gettysburg. He was wounded at Gaines Mill in the back, thigh, hand and left foot on June 27, 1862 and recovered in time to go to Gettysburg with the rest of Hill's Division. He was wounded on July 1, 1863 at Gettysburg in the head and foot and was hospitalized until transferred to Davis Island, NY Harbor. He was later exchanged on October 28, 1863 for a Union soldier and was paroled at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. A family story, told by his granddaughter, relates that he walked home, catching a ride whenever he could.

He was married to Drucilla Arnold and they were the parents of five children: Sarah Fanny, Virginia Dallas, Oliver T., Alexander Willard, Sr., and Mary Amanda. He and his wife are buried in the Lebew/Chapel Hill Cemetery in Shallotte, NC.

Material submitted by Dorothy Phelps West, a great granddaughter and verified by Glenn Kye.



## Blockade Runner Is Beached

By: Eugene Fallon  
The State Port Pilot, August 30, 1961

The year 1864 was a bitter year in Dixie. New Bern fell to a Union assault party; in the summer of that year the Army of Lee fell back from the barren fields of Gettysburg and a stubborn General Meade. The glorious cause was staggering and already lost. In Brunswick County the action was, if relatively minor, none the less dramatic and heartening.

From the harbors, coves and inlets of Brunswick, brave men slipped out to sea, daring the Union blockade to carry cotton and navel stores to England and France. And those who succeeded in getting under the tight lid of ships and guns found it even more difficult to get back in bringing cannons, muskets, munitions and money to the hard-pressed Confederacy.

On the early morning of January 11, 1864, just as the east turned red a sleek double-propeller steamer, low in the water and obviously built for speed, raced desperately for land. And there were urgent need for speeds. The *Vesta* was being hotly pursued by the flagship of the Union blockade fleet, the *USS Aries*, whose base was Shallotte Inlet. The Yankee cruiser was under the command of Capt. Edward F. Devens, a native of Boston.

Perhaps Devens was exercising his New England thrift when he directed the "Rebel Scooter" be not blown from the water, but, if possible, stopped dead in the water and salvaged whole (cargo and vessel alike.) Then again, New England boasted some pretty good sailors, and it may have seemed a pity to Devens, to blast such beauty to the bottom.

The *Vesta* was a pretty ship at that. Records show she was of some 500 tons; 250 feet long and built on a 31-foot beam. These specifications allowed for shallow draft—probably about 10 feet—whereas the Union warships averaged 24-foot draft. This enabled the *Vesta* to dash through shallow waters while the cumbersome Yankee frigates could do nothing but lurk out farther and await the next move. Black smoke poured from the three funnels of the *Vesta* as she dodged this way and that, while miniature waterspouts appeared astern of her and across her bow where federal shot splashed.

The 40 men aboard the *Vesta* were tired and grim-lipped. This was the second day of hide-and-go-seek. The day before the *Vesta* had slipped within view of another ship, the Blockade Runner *Ranger*, smashed and battered and nearly awash some 8 miles west of Fort Caswell. As the *Vesta* swirled by the wrecked Confederate vessel, the *Vesta* crew may have wondered, perhaps, of the fate of the *Ranger's* men. Were they drowned and dead, or, worse still, contained in chains in some Yankee warship?

But conjecture itself was short-lived. Sighted, the *Vesta* was chased by three Union cruisers: *The Quaker City*, *Tuscarora*, and the *Keystone State*. She had given them the slip, aided by darkness and her superior speed up to 20 miles per hour. Attempting to make a landfall the next morning, the *Vesta* was observed by Devens aboard the *Ariel* and the chase was on once more.

The *Ariel*, as flagship, was more heavily-gunned and perhaps a mite faster than her sister ships, and the *Vesta* was running short of coal. It was now nip and tuck with the odds lengthening against the green-painted vessel carrying arms for the gallant fighters-in-gray. And she was loaded down with guns. British and Belgian rifles, bandoliers, bayonets, kegs of gunpowder and grape shots and canister; all bad news for the boys in blue.

The master of the *Vesta* ordered that the last ounce of steam be put on. "If it busts her boilers," he told his engineer sadly, "it is better than falling into the hands of the Yankees." And slowly, ever so slowly, the *Vesta* drew away from the *Ariel*. Searching the skies desperately, the skipper of the blockade runner could see not the faintest vestige of cloud. He knew his hours were numbered. Darting around headland, the *Vesta* steamed straight for Tubbs Inlet. The master decided the time had come to do or die.

"Drive her up on the sands!" he told the man at the wheel. "We'll have perhaps two hours to unload the cargo before they can reach us in their boats."

The *Vesta* swept along to her doom. The crewmen who lined its decks marveled at the way she went to execution. "Like a gud lassie," said one Scotch sailor. Strong men wept, as her twin screws drove her deep into sand which broke her back and sent her listing like a drunken thing as grotesque angle.

Unknown to the men aboard the runner, the drama which closed the annals of the good ship *Vesta* had not gone unnoticed. No sooner had she beached when a dozen soldiers dressed in Confederate gray appeared from nowhere. All hands worked like maniacs to unload the boxed rifles and other armaments. Several wagons awaited, were loaded, and lumbered off.

Before the job was half-completed, the *Ariel* hove into view, swung around and dispatched two boats, one of which carried Capt. Devens. The men on the beach retreated behind some trees and, waiting until the boats came into range, unleashed a fusillade of rifle fire, which drove the Unionists back to their ship. The *Ariel* hoisted anchor and steamed away, presumably in quest of a company of riflemen. Looking back from his stance on the *Ariel's* bridge with something like admiration in his eyes, Capt. Devens saw that the *Vesta* had been set afire. The Yankee shipmaster watched the oily smoke rise like a distress signal from the receding beach, and wondered anew upon the futility of the war.

The following morning saw the *Ariel* converging again upon Tubbs Inlet. On her deck stood a detachment of Union sharpshooters, bayonets bristling in the bright sun. But nothing remained to threaten the peace of that particular section of Brunswick County. The landing party, headed by Devens of course, found the beach deserted. Boarding the stranded smoke-blackened vessel, Devens with difficulty ascertained her name *Vesta*. Her holds gaped empty. Whatever she had carried, thought Devens, is now in enemy hands.

Although he had been outrun and outwitted, Devens had no desire to abandon the rich prize to what a New England poet had only recently called: "the harpies of the shore." Ordering a hawser to be made fast to the magnificent ruin, Devens attempted to pull the brave ship from her unyielding bed, but it was no go. The Yankees discovered that the starboard side of the *Vesta* was ripped apart and several of her plates were awry. When the long boats pulled for the *Ariel* they carried only two anchors as salvage from the dead ship. Later, Devens was to write:

**"I left the Confederate blockade runner, the *Vesta*, a complete wreck with five feet of water in her. Her boats lay on the beach, stove in. There was not a sign of her crew, who undoubtedly made their escape to a Rebel sanctuary and, it is to be expected, eventually to their homes."**

Exactly where those homes lay is open to speculation after some 97 years. The name of the man who commanded the *Vesta* is lost in time. This is not so surprising as it may seem since the *Vesta* was built on the Clyde River in Scotland, and was manned by British seamen. If she was

built to Confederate order, or whether she was the product of British individual commercialism, is also unknown.

What is known is that she set forth on the last stage of her fatal sortie from a point in the Bahamas, British West Indies, probably the island of Nassau, and that the *Vesta's* maiden voyage was also her last. Leaving British waters the *Vesta* never made a southern port, unless you can call Tubbs Inlet a port of call. But she tried with all her oaken heart, even if she foundered within sight of her goal. Who is to say her contest was in vain?

Today the *Vesta* has been reincarnated. In memoriam of this gallant ship, Mannon C. Gore, proprietor of Sunset Beach, NC has erected a pier as long in length as the sailormen of the ill-fated British ship were in purpose, directly over the spot where she came to rest with a broken back but with a heart beating fiercely. Next time you're down that salty way, look at the name on that pier. It shines bright in the southern sunshine. It reads V-E-S-T-A.

Lighthouses of the Lower Cape Fear  
By: Susi Clontz

**This article originally appeared in the Federal Point Historical Preservation Society  
NEWSLETTER, December 1996**

Because of North Carolina's treacherous coastline, our shores have been graced with coastal lighthouses. These tall, circular structures tower above the sand banks at scattered intervals along our Atlantic shoreline. Mariners have used these lighthouses for centuries as guides for safe passage through the narrow channels, sounds, inlets, and up interior rivers. At present North Carolina has eight remaining lighthouses. Three are located on the southern end of the Cape Fear River and can be seen from the Southport/Fort Fisher ferry. The first lighthouse built in North Carolina was affectionately called "Old Baldy" located on Bald Head Island. Its purpose was to warn mariners of the dangerous Frying Pan shoals and provide guidance into the mouth of the Cape Fear River. It was completed in 1818 at a cost of \$15,915.45. It stands 109 feet high and is brick covered with plaster. The state discontinued using Bald Head lighthouse in 1935. All that is left standing is the tower that serves as a distinctive day marker and the oil shed that stored the oil used to light the lamps. On August 14, 1848, Congress passed a bill allowing the installation of a series of lights along the Cape Fear River. The cost was six thousand dollars for two beacon lights at Price's Creek. The lights allowed the pilots safe passage as they steered through the channel. One light remains making it the only inland lighthouse left standing in North Carolina. In 1958 a silo-style lighthouse was built at the Oak Island Coast Guard Station. Its purpose was to assume the duties of the discontinued tower on Bald Head Island. The Oak Island Lighthouse stands 169 feet tall and has eight-inch-thick reinforced concrete walls. The foundation is 70 feet deep and rests firmly on bedrock. The paint is integrated into the concrete, the top third black, middle third white, and bottom third gray. The tower never has to be painted. The main light is a rotating, four-arrow beacon. Each light is lit with 1000-watt bulbs that can be seen 24 nautical miles offshore. It is one of the last manually operated lighthouses in the United States.

Source: *North Carolina Lighthouses*, David Stick.