



NEWSLETTER

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

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NOVEMBER MEETING TO BE HELD AT BEMC IN SUPPLY, NC NOVEMBER 12, 2007 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. **We always meet the 2nd Monday in February, May, August and November.**

The speaker will be Eric Kozen, Superintendent of Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, NC. He will speak about the history and significance of the markers located in the cemetery,

The Treasurer reports a bank balance of \$1,704.58. This bank balance is as of October 1, 2007. The editor prints and mails the Newsletter before the October bank statement arrives. Total membership stands at 75. This includes 19 Life Members. Newsletters are sent to 5 libraries, 1 historical society and 1 state historic site. For \$100 one can become a life member and never have to worry about dues again. Today, this is truly a bargain. Talk with your friends and invite them to the next meeting. Don't assume they know about the society. We are receiving good publicity about the meeting since notices are placed in area newspapers.

Society Officers 2007-2009

President: Glenn Kye
Vice- President: James Green
Secretary: Annette Phelps
Treasurer: Gwen Causey
Directors: Sheldon Pigott, Tammy Sellers, Dave Lewis
Newsletter Editor: Gwen Causey
Refreshments:
Publicity:

MISSION STATEMENT: To collect, preserve, study, evaluate and publicize the history of Brunswick County, NC. To devote meetings to presentation of materials about Brunswick County and the Lower Cape Fear through lectures, slides, and discussion. To publish a newsletter which contains news of the Society's activities, research papers and articles that pertain to genealogy.

THE STANLANDS

In the year 1900, Jackson Stanland was thirty seven years of age and already involved in several ventures including turpentine farming and a mercantile business. His wife, Minnie, seventeen years his junior, was busy raising a son Thomas, 2, and a daughter Janie, nine months old. By 1908, the couple was even busier, as the next eight years saw Chancey, Herman, Edward, Bessie, Catherine, and Mertha join the family.

Jackson Stanland was a prominent member of his community, fortunate to be one of the largest landowners, owner of several businesses - including a general store, grist mill, and several acres of timberland used for turpentine farming. This prominence, ironically, sealed his fate, for the leaders of his political party were looking for a man of his caliber who was respected and well-known throughout Brunswick County. He answered the call of his party and was elected to the Office of Sheriff in 1904.

As the story goes, Sheriff Stanland entered the house where Jesse Walker was sitting at his table eating supper. A deputy, J. E. Robinson, entered through the back door. Robinson grabbed Walker from behind, but not before the suspect was able to get to his gun and point and shoot directly at the sheriff. Purportedly, the suspect Walker was being sought for storebreaking.

The shot entered Sheriff Stanland's stomach resulting in a wound that proved to be fatal. Dr. J. Arthur Doshier was brought from Southport to Shallotte by sailboat, and after performing surgery, peritonitis developed and Jackson Stanland died on November 30, 1908 less than twenty four hours after the shooting.

After escaping from jail, the killer was not seen again until he was spotted in a Wilmington

restaurant on March 7, 1915. Jailed again, he escaped again on July 10, 1919 after serving barely four years of his thirty year sentence. It wasn't until 1935 that Walker was heard from again. The following story helps to explain his activities during this period.

Escaping from prison in 1919 after serving four years of his thirty year sentence for the slaying of Jackson Stanland in 1908, Walker fled to the Bayou State to establish himself in business. He married and has reared a family there. Ten days ago on April 14, 1935, he voluntarily returned to the North Carolina Central Prison in Raleigh to finish out his term, because he wanted a "clear conscience".

He came to Whiteville and visited relatives before returning to the cold grey prison walls, and they accompanied him to Raleigh. Informed of the development in Gulfport, where Walker, known as Frank Manning, had built up a fine reputation. Since his return to the prison, Walker has expressed appreciation for public sympathy in his case and said he hoped he would receive clemency in due time.

Walker, whose hair turned from jet black to snow white during his sixteen years of stolen liberty, said upon his voluntary return to the prison: "God has forgiven me; I hope man will. It was hard to give up everything outside, but I had a debt to pay. I had worried and it hung over me. You can't describe it in words but you are always fearful of everybody you don't know and some that you do know".

Subsequent to Walker's return, some Brunswick County citizens and officials signed the petition for Walker's freedom, including Sheriff J. A. Russ. Also Tom Clemmons, first cousin of the sheriff signed it. Ex-Sheriff J. E. Robinson, who was with Stanland at the time he



Sheriff Jackson Stanland. Circa 1900.

was killed, refused to sign the petition. He told the petition bearers that he had forgiven Walker for the attempt he had made to kill him after shooting Stanland, but declared that he would have no part in setting him free. He assured Walker's relatives that he would do nothing to block their efforts and asked them to tell Walker to come to see him when and if he gets out.

After Walker's pleas for clemency, the Stanland family responded with the following letter to North Carolina Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus:

My dear Governor: It has come to my attention, and my brothers' and sisters', that one Jesse C. Walker, who shot my father, Jackson Stanland, about twenty five or twenty six years ago, has returned to the Central Prison at Raleigh, N. C., having escaped more than sixteen years ago; and that a petition is being drawn in his behalf for a pardon.

Our family at the present time consists of seven children; Thomas, Chancey, Herman Edward, Bessie, Catherine, and Mertha. At the time that Walker shot my father, there was an attempt to lynch him, and it was because of my father's insistence that he be given a fair trial, that this was avoided. Before he came to trial, however, Walker escaped, and was not apprehended for about five or six years. Subsequent thereto, he was sentenced to thirty years in the Central Prison. After having served four or five years, he escaped and has now returned.

As a result of my father's death, our mother's heart was broken, and she died three years after my father. We were seven orphans, and had pretty hard struggling during the years when we

were young. We lost our father and mother, and we feel that Walker, whom we understand in the first instance was an Army deserter, and against whom five warrants were out at the time my father attempted to make the arrest, did not serve his sentence and fulfill his debt to society.

My brothers, sisters, and I have given this matter serious consideration and thought if this man had served a minimum of the sentence, at least, we would be glad to sign a petition for a pardon, but in view of his escape and his failure to serve anywhere near the

sentence which was rendered, and the suffering that we children have had as a result of the shooting of my father, prompts us to send this petition to you opposing the executive clemency".

The family letter, notwithstanding, failed to convince the authorities. The date is unavailable, but shortly after this time, Walker was pardoned by the Governor, due in part to his "so-called"

exemplary life in Mississippi and the lapse of years. He remained in the area as a preacher until he learned that one of the Stanland descendants lived nearby. He returned to Mississippi to live out his life.

As the letter stated, Minnie Stanland died shortly after her husband, leaving seven orphan children who were cared for by relatives. The children, as they became

of age, scattered in different directions. Herman, in his quest for a career, made stops in Texas, Connecticut, Florida, and eventually back to his hometown. Chancey was a career Coast Guardsman who retired and returned to Shallotte also. The others, after leaving Shallotte, never returned. Herman's son, Herman, Jr. or "Sonny" as he is known, lives in Shallotte while his sister, Marilyn or "Sister" lives in California. ❖



Jackson Stanland home. Circa 1900.



Jackson Stanland house- Circa 1908.
Murdered before house was occupied.
Purchased by R.D. White.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The Editor is indebted to several people for the articles on "The Stanlands" and the "Old Jail in Southport, NC."

In 1999 Elwood Cheers wrote a book for the Shallotte, NC Centennial. It contains a collection of historical data and stories from 1899 to 1999. It is dedicated to the hardy souls who preceded us, and through deep struggles and a pioneering spirit, undaunted by overwhelming odds at time—carved out a town on this soil by the River Shallotte. "The Stanlands" is one of the families written about in the book.

If you own a copy of this book you're quite lucky. Otherwise you must go to the public library to read and enjoy these stories of long ago.

"The Whittlers Bench" is the newsletter of the Southport Historical Society. In July, 1996 two Susies—Susie Carson and Susie Holtz—decided to get out an issue of the newsletter—not only for the membership but also to have copies available for those tourists visiting the "Old Jail" during the summer.

Of particular interest is the "County Jail Story, 1915." There is a connection between this story and the story about Sheriff Stanland. Perhaps this helps explain the many jailbreaks by Jesse Walker, alias Frank Manning.

COUNTY JAIL STORY, 1915

Southport, N. C. - May 3.

Wooden keys that would fit the jail locks were found in the possession of J.C. Walker, in jail, charged with the murder of Sheriff Jack Stanaland, the past week by Sheriff J. E. Robinson. The sheriff had an intimation that Walker had the keys - hence the search. Walker is somewhat a mechanical genius, and if given half the chance would fit up a contrivance that would turn him out of the jail. A guard watches him every night, and drops around frequently during the day. Since being in jail Walker has made a number of handsome shawls for sale.

He will be tried at Burgaw the last week in May, and it is thought now that a number of Southport and Brunswick people will attend as spectators.

WILMINGTON EVENING DISPATCH, May 3, 1915.

A JAIL STORY, 1914

"Only timely warning to the jailer, Mr. J. H. Russ, by one of the prisoners Saturday night prevented a wholesale jail delivery. Owing to the extreme hot weather the prisoners had been turned out of the cells into the corridors. Saturday afternoon a piece of heavy tin had been secured and an effort had been made to dig through the brick wall. Quite a good deal of progress was made by nine o'clock when a note was gotten to Mr. Russ. The ring leaders in the get-away had planned also to overpower the jailer and take away his keys, using bricks as weapons. Being forewarned by the note, the jailer went prepared and soon had all locked in the cells. An investigation was made yesterday and the responsibility fixed upon a young man who had been charged with disturbing religious worship and another man charged with assault with a deadly weapon."

COUNTY JAIL HOUSE REPORT, 1914

"The Grand Jury committee appointed to visit the county jail beg leave to report as follows:

We find the condition of the jail to be bad in that the health of prisoners is in danger from the very unsanitary conditions prevailing therein. The floors are not well kept and the bedding is insufficient and filthy, and rubbish is placed around the jail room and also placed on top of the iron cells. The odor prevailing in the jail rooms is almost unbearable.

We therefore recommend that all bedding, such as mattresses and wood cots, be burned and destroyed, or if possible the wood cots be thoroughly cleaned, and that the dust and dirt accumulated in the jail rooms be removed from the jail, and that the jail rooms be thoroughly renovated and put in sanitary condition.

We further recommend that the jail be refurnished with new cots and bedding and that sheets and pillowcases be furnished to all prisoners and that the same be washed and kept neat and clean while in use.

We further recommend that the jail be wired for electric lights and that the main switch be placed below in order that the lights may be turned on from below.

We also recommend that the jail lot be kept clean and in a neat condition.

We also recommend that the county commissioners be required to place a good substantial fence around the jail lot.

We would further recommend that the county commissioners visit the jail at each and every meeting of the board and look into the conditions surrounding the same.

THE EVENING DISPATCH, 10-19-1914.

BOLIVIA FOR COUNTY SEAT

By: Bill Reaves

"Bolivia for the county seat of Brunswick County!" was the cry in this community in January, 1920. An election was planned for May to determine whether the courthouse should be removed from Southport. The candidates for the county were Southport, Bolivia and Supply. The campaign promises to be a lively one.

Bolivia in 1920 had a population of about 400, with more people coming as soon as houses could be built for them. The town officials were Dr. J. R. Ballance, mayor, and the aldermen were F. L. Lewis, E. M. Cox, E. W. Wilson. The town treasurer was E. M. Cox.

The town was laid off into streets and recently there had been a sale of 200 lots.

In 1919, a new tobacco warehouse had been constructed in the town, the first of its kind and it was called the Bolivia Warehouse Co. It was organized by London Lewis, John Joyce and J. W. Brooks. The first year's sales amounted to 750,000 pounds, distributing more than a quarter of a million dollars among the patrons of the new market.

A new 20-room hotel was planned by J. W. Brooks and it was hoped that the tobacco warehouse would be enlarged to double its capacity.

The lumber mills in the Bolivia area in 12 months had shipped 7,500,000 feet, requiring 500 freight cars to haul it to northern cities and ports.

The railroad traffic was growing rapidly in the town, with W. O. McKeithan, the railroad agent for the Wilmington, Brunswick and Southport Railroad. Miss Bessie Willetts was the railroad clerk.

The Bolivia graded school had 155 pupils in attendance in 1920. Miss Flossie Edwards was the principal, and the teachers were Miss Laura Brown and Miss Dagny Larsen.

The merchants in the town were W. O. McKeithan, W. H. Tharp, N. B. Leonard, E. W. Wilson, G. W. Kirby, Jr., R. M. King and the Brunswick Drug Co. (Britton Smith.)

The churches in existence were the Missionary Baptist and the Free Will Baptist. A new Methodist church was then under construction.

The town boasted telephone service with both Wilmington and Southport.

Lewis & Cox were operating a flourishing repair garage for automobiles and Tolman Robbins was erecting a new store building.

Around Bolivia, hundreds of thousands of dollars was changing hands in land transactions. One of the heaviest land purchasers was Needham Ward of Johnston County. He had recently bought the home places of Jack Johnson, David Ward, Tolson Robbins and others. Phillip Price, a newcomer, had bought the Fred Staffin place.

Many of the newcomers buying land in the area were from Wake, Nash, Johnston, Franklin and other counties in the state. Much of the land was in close proximity to the Wilmington-Southport highway which was being improved.

Quince Lewis, and his two sons, Lenox and LeNou, were expert tobacco growers from Mullins, S.C., and they moved into the Bolivia area to develop one of the best bright tobacco farms in Brunswick County.

SEVEN WONDERS OF THE CAPE FEAR
As seen through your eyes, the marvels and miracles of Southeastern N. C.

STAR-NEWS, Wilmington, NC
August 19, 2007

When Bernard Weber, a Swiss-born world traveler, started a public campaign to elect a new set of seven wonders, the world responded enthusiastically. The original seven had been named more than 2,000 years ago by a Greek writer, Philo of Byzantium, as premier examples of human ingenuity. Today, only one of those wonders remain: the Giza pyramids in Egypt. It was time for an update. At Weber's behest, global citizens nominated and voted for wonders that exhibited the triumph of human advancement in the past two millennia. In an elaborate ceremony in July, the world watched as the wonders were declared. And so an idea was born. What if Cape Fear residents could nominate their own local wonders that represent the character, history and uniqueness of the region? We may not have a Great Wall, but we do have Thalian Hall. After three weeks, 70 nominations and more than 2,000 votes, you have chosen the winners.

Editor's Note: Three of the seven wonders are found in Brunswick County. The top vote getter is the Venus' Flytrap.

Venus' Flytrap

Native only to coastal bogs in North and South Carolina—basically within a 70-mile radius of Wilmington—the Venus' flytrap is the carnivorous flowering plant that "bites." The 18th-century British naturalist John Bartram identified the plant's meat-eating habits, calling it "my little tipiwitchet" in letters back to England. The term "Flytrap Sensitive" seems to have come from a fellow botanist North Carolina's colonial governor Arthur Dobbs. Nobody, however, seems to know how the little plant became associated with the goddess of love.

Once common, the flytrap is now listed as "threatened," as development destroys many habitats. "This plant is a true miracle and wonder of nature..." said John Humphrey, who nominated it. "The Venus' flytrap is a natural treasure and local wonder that we should recognize and preserve."

Many flytraps still grow at Carolina Beach State Park, off U. S. 421 just south of the Snow's Cut bridge. The city of Wilmington, in cooperation with the N.C. Coastal Land Trust and local naturalist Stanley Rehder, is developing a flytrap refuge and education center in the woods behind Alderman Elementary School.

Loggerhead Sea Turtle

It's August—prime egg-laying season for sea turtles—and nests are popping up on beaches from North Topsail to Ocean Isle.

The loggerhead, named for its large head and powerful jaws, is the most common sea turtle seen locally. (You can also spot the much rarer Kemp's Ridley.) Once hunted for their meat and eggs, the threatened species draws environmentally conscious tourists to area aquariums and nature excursions. Sandy Sly, a volunteer at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center on Topsail Island, said 400 to 500 people a day visit their "charismatic" turtles. "They just have a way about them," Sly said about the heart-shaped amphibians.

The N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher rescues turtles hatchlings and holds them to grow a bit before releasing them into the Gulf Stream.

Bald Head Lighthouse

The 100-foot-tall lighthouse has guarded the mouth of the Cape Fear River since 1817. Officially retired, the oldest standing lighthouse on the North Carolina coast now serves as a historic site and the island's semi-official icon. Chris Hajek, who nominated Old Baldy, calls it "a solidly built lighthouse that has withstood the test of time and is a visible landmark for miles around."

Visitors can walk to the top to catch a breathtaking, panoramic view of the island. A nearby replica of the light keeper's cottage contains historic artifacts and documents.

Bald Head Island can only be accessed by ferry from Southport.

The Airlie Oak and Airlie Gardens

Airlie, part of a land grant from the reign of Britain's King George II, had a long career as a plantation. In the late 1800's, Pembroke and Sarah Jones—the couple credited with inspiring the phrase “keeping up with the Jones”—entertained America's social elite on the property. Sarah Jones began developing the gardens around 1901, at one point hiring a former gardener of the German Kaiser to work on the grounds.

In 1948, the gardens were open to the public. Minnie Evans, the famed visionary artist, worked as Airlie's gatekeeper for nearly three decades. Garden attractions include walking trails, more than 10,000 varieties of azaleas and camellias, art and the “Airlie Oak,” a giant living oak nearly 500 years old, whose sweeping branches have sheltered many social gatherings.

“They give you a feeling of serenity and peace during all four seasons of the year,” said Carol Radford, who nominated the gardens. “If lost, we would not be able to replace them.”

The historic gardens are located at 300 Airlie Road.

Thalian Hall Center For The Performing Arts

Completed in 1858, this ornate theater played host in its heyday to such stars as John Phillip Sousa, Buffalo Bill Cody and the Barrymores. Oscar Wilde, Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington all lectured here. Now Thalian Hall presents local performers, touring productions and the Cinematique series of foreign and independent films.

Free, self-guided tours of the theater at 310 Chestnut Street are available during box office hours. Backstage tours are available by appointment.

Fort Fisher State Historic Site and Recreation Area

Built of sand and earth to absorb artillery fire, Fort Fisher guarded the entrance to the Cape Fear River from Union warships during the Civil War. So vital was its role in protecting Confederate supply lines that Robert E. Lee wrote that he could not defend Richmond if Fort Fisher fell. Until its eventual capture in January 1865, it marked the largest amphibious operation in U.S. history until D-Day in World War II.

Erosion has claimed much of the Fort's sea face. But tourists can now walk on the remaining batteries (platforms for heavy guns), and follow the course of Fort Fisher's rise and fall, either on their own or through guided tours. “A reminder of one of the largest land-sea battles of the Civil War, it stands somewhat intact as a reminder of the thousands of lives lost there,” said Chris Hajek, who nominated the site.

Just across the historic site's parking lot is the N.C. Underwater Archaeology Center, with artifacts recovered from historic shipwrecks off the Cape Fear coast.

North Carolina Battleship Memorial

The 728-foot *USS North Carolina* was the first American battleship to reach Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack, and it earned 15 battle stars for its role in Pacific naval campaigns during World War II. Saved from the scrap yard by a statewide fund-raising drive, it was towed to Wilmington where, since 1962, it has been anchored as a floating museum and a memorial to North Carolina veterans who served in the Second World War. “The *USS North Carolina* is for all the people of North Carolina,” said Michael

Gaskin of Florida, who nominated the ship, "for all the diversity and history of the people that have lived or made contributions to the area's lifestyle."

Visitors can walk the decks on the self-guided tours and crawl through the turrets of some of the battleship's 137 guns. Compartments and artifacts illustrate daily life of the *North Carolina's* crew during wartime.

Editor's Note: The Oak Island Lighthouse was nominated by B. J. Eversole. It did not garner enough votes to be named one of the seven wonders of the Cape Fear.

A Short History of Bethel United Methodist Church, Bolivia, NC

According to the late Johnsie Holden in her book, "Heartening Heritage," Bethel was part of the Brunswick Circuit in 1879. Before that time, services took place in private homes and at several locations in Bolivia. Private homes listed were homes of the Daniels, Rourks, Sullivans, and Charles Gause.

As early as 1853, Christopher Columbus Mercer became licensed to preach and led the "Zoar Class," which preceded Bethel. The Zoar class was in Smithville Circuit in 1850.

Holden's book states that Bethel became a member of the Town Creek Circuit by 1901 with R. T. Wyche as pastor; C. N. Leonard was Sunday School superintendent.

Church historians Frank Galloway and Mildred Mercer state that the first building was located in Bolivia on the Phillip Cox place. After that, it was located at Gap Branch or "Middle Swamp" on Antioch Road in a log building called "Zora."

Another location was on the site of the present-day Brunswick County Government Center in Bolivia.

Galloway and Mercer list some of the members of the church at that time as Cox, Flowers, Harvell, McKee, McKeithan, Mercer, Montgomery, Murrell, Sellers and others.

In 1916, land was given by A. L. Mercer and wife for a new church, and services began by the end of that year. The building was a one-room structure located across from the W. K. Cox home on U.S. 17.

Bad luck came with a storm in 1917, which demolished the building. The land was sold and on March 8, 1918, F. E. Galloway and wife gave land for the present-day church.

Until the building was completed, services met in the Holiness and Baptist churches. Members Thorpe, Knox and Danford donated timber for the new church. At a cost of \$1,600, the building consisted mainly of a sanctuary.

In 1937, Sunday school rooms were built, and in 1959, a new parsonage was built on Knox Road. Bethel has continued to grow, and with the help of the Duke Endowment and members' contributions of money, time and effort, the congregation will have more worship and fellowship space in the near future.

The congregation participated in a groundbreaking ceremony August 26, 2007 for a new addition to the church. The event was led by pastor Mark Murphy, and the children participated in turning the first ground. The new building will contain a fellowship hall, new bathrooms, two classrooms and a kitchen.

Editor's Note: This article, along with a picture, appeared in the "BRUNSWICK BEACON" September 27, 2007.

First Baptist Church of Shallotte

First Baptist Church of Shallotte is located on North Main Street in Shallotte, NC.

The church was constituted in 1837 and was first named Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church. The name was changed to Shallotte first Southern Missionary Baptist church in 1954 with Rev. Frank Johnson as the pastor at time.

Later under the auspices of Rev Dr Randy Gruber the name was changed to First Baptist Church of Shallotte or first Southern Missionary Baptist of Shallotte, being incorporated at that time.

Recorded in Raleigh show that Shallotte first Baptist church was a member of the Waccamaw Baptist Association as early as 1881. Records also show that Shallotte First Baptist helped to organize the Brunswick Baptist Association and was a member of said association from 1866-1894. Due to associational changes, the county divided and the church became a member of Cape Fear -Columbus Association in 1895, but was received back into The Brunswick Baptist Association in 1900.

The first church building was a frame structure, one mile east of the old Main Street location near where Wal*Mart is now. The second church building was built on the aforementioned site in 1886. It was destroyed by fire in 1831. All of the church personal records were destroyed in the fire; however the Christian zeal of the church survived. Services were held in a barn belonging to Mr. Oscar Gray.

Construction was begun on a third building at once. This building was a frame structure with brick foundation, six classrooms and closed off spaces in the sanctuary for four additional classrooms. This building was dedicated in April 1932.

The next building, a brick structure had 10 classrooms, in modern heat and air-conditioned spaces. with other spaces available in the fellowship hall to be used for more classrooms. It was dedicated in 1965. Later the church with five more classrooms raised a new construction. The church reported a Sunday School to the Baptist State board since 1902, but had a Sunday School all the prior years to that time.

Records in Raleigh show that church members in 1897 was 73, in 1907 69 in 1917 it was 112, in 1928 119. In 1972 it was 242. In 1975 it was 188 and at the present time it exceeds 400+

The first resident clergy was the Rev. A W Robbins who served as pastor from 1838-1848 The parsonage was built in 1958. It was partially destroyed by fire in 1966, but was rebuilt the same year. It was remodeled and renovated during the years of 1988-89. The parsonage succumbed to the Wal*Mart Store being built in early 2000.

Baptist organizations in the church are WMU (Ladies Ministries) Brotherhood (Men's Ministries) GA's. RA's, Mission Friends, CA's and Cubbies. We sponsor a Boy Scout Troop, also.

There is also an Adult Choir, Youth Choir, Witness and Wee Witness and a Male Quartet bringing praises to our Lord.

A library (Media Center) was begun under the auspices of Ouida Hewett in 1975.

This still operates with a staff on Sunday and Wednesday night services.

During the years of 1983-87, we had Rev Eddie booth as pastor. The church renovated the sanctuary, the fellowship hall, classrooms and added bathrooms. The church choir participated in the Brunswick Baptist Associational Cantata under the direction of Isaiah Machad. 123+ were saved, baptized and became Christians during the era.

Rev Landis Lancaster was our next pastor and under his leadership we celebrated the bicentennial year of our nation with and "old fashioned service and dinner on the grounds, including an old fashioned and delicious chicken bog"

In June 1984, we held a "Mrs. Ruby Blanton Day", honoring this wonderful lady for her many years of service to our Lord. The celebration was with and for her many years of service, her faithfulness and loving servant of our church.

Rev Dr Randy Gruber came and led us thru a "Vision " of building a new church. We held fundraisers, yard sales, and gave generously through the Tree of Life and classroom sponsorship to construct the building we are into now. We opted to construct the family Life Center and Educational building with plans in the very near future of beginning and completing the sanctuary accommodating upward to 1,000 members.

Rev Dr. Robert Weather is our present pastor.

During his tenure our church has purchased and equipped a "Disaster Trailer" under the Men's Ministries. The men coordinated a mission trip to Gulf Port Mississippi and have returned several times. Several of the women participated too. They have traveled to Sri Lanka also. The WMU (Women's Ministries) held a First Butterfly banquet inviting all churches in the entire community to participate. This will be continuing annually. They are presently working on printing a cookbook as a mission project enabling them to invite more people for the Butterfly Banquet.

Our church participates in Crop walk, Run for Food, Summer and Fall Concerts, Belk Days with South Brunswick Interchurch Council.

Participating in the Food Pantry Ministry is a blessing, helping those in need and witnessing to the lost souls of the community. Operation Christmas Child is a church wide mission activity that all ages participate in.

We are humbly grateful for the consecrated Christians of our church both past and present. If only we had the space to call all of them by name, but this is not permissible. We are happy to call to your attention that First Southern Missionary Baptist Church of Shallotte which is 170 years old today and still in the services of our Lord. Let us humbly pray that she will serve the Lord and grow in God's grace until the final day of the coming of our Lord. Pray for us.

Written by: Ouida Hewett October 11, 2007

The Origin of Winnabow

**Helen Taylor
July 9, 1999**

The origin of the name Winnabow is not known. We do know that the Winnabow post office was named for the Winnabow Plantation.

In 1737 Nathaniel Rice purchased from Jeremiah Bigford a place called "Winnebah." It seems that at some later time this Indian sounding name became "Winnabow."

Some of the historic sites within the Winnabow area are Brunswick Town State Historic Site, Orton Plantation, Winnabow Plantation and site of early Charles Town settlement on Town Creek.

At present the Winnabow post office serves 1,280 patrons and the two routes cover approximately 105 miles. As some have said it extends from the Cape Fear River to the edge of the Green Swamp.