



# NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME XLIX

MAY, 2009

NUMBER 2

Organized June 21, 1956

## MAY MEETING TO BE HELD AT BEMC IN SUPPLY, NC MAY 11, 2009 7:30 P. M.

The next meeting of the Brunswick County Historical Society will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> 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 prior to the meeting. **We always meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in February, May, August and November.**

The speaker will be Eric Kozen, Superintendent of Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, NC. He will speak on the preservation of family cemeteries and burial places. He spoke at our meeting on November 12, 2007 and now returns to update us on methods to use in preserving tombstones.

The February issue of the NEWSLETTER began the 49<sup>th</sup> Volume. Volume I, Number 1 was printed September, 1961. A complete set of the Newsletter from September, 1961 to November, 2008 can be found in the Wilson Library at UNC-Chapel Hill, NC and at the New Hanover County Public Library North Carolina Room in Wilmington, NC. There were no publications of Volume 17, # 3 & 4 (1977) and Volume 18, # 1 (1978).

In recognition of the BCHS and the members this issue contains several historical documents. Read and learn about our Society in its early days.

BCHS Website.....Have you visited our website??? Go to [www.bchs1764.org](http://www.bchs1764.org) and check it out!!

The Scholarship Committee would like to thank everyone that is helping to make the scholarship program happen. We appreciate your support and generosity. Please consider a donation to this fund.

### Society Officers 2009-2010

President: Glenn Kye

Vice- President: James Green

Secretary: Annette Phelps

Treasurer: Sandra Ward

Directors: Don Hickman, Jim Marlowe, Dave Lewis

Newsletter Editor: Gwen Causey

**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.

Minutes of the Meeting  
Brunswick County Historical Society

July 31, 1958

The Brunswick County Historical Society met at Dr. Rowk's Cottage at Gause Landing July 31, 1958. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Foster Mintz and Rev. Bridges gave the invocation. The minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was \$60.84.

A Committee report on the historical markers was then heard. Rev. Bridges stated that in order to get these markers we have to present evidence of national significance. Wm. Gause, George Washington and Bishop Asbury were mentioned as possibilities. Mrs. Ne Niel expressed interest in a marker for the Gause Tomb.

Mr. Thomas made a motion that the society send congratulations to Ivan L. Bennett as a teacher at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Rowk was asked to congratulate him. Mrs. Taylor seconded this motion and it was carried.

It was then decided that the next meeting be held at Southport. New officers are to be elected.

Mr. Harry Mintz then introduced our speaker Dr. E. J. Woodhouse of U. N. C.

After the program the meeting was adjourned.

Signed:  
Ramona King, secretary

# Brunswick County Historical Society

January 29, 1975

Mr. G. R. Leonard  
2112 Woodcrest Drive  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503

Dear Mr. Leonard:

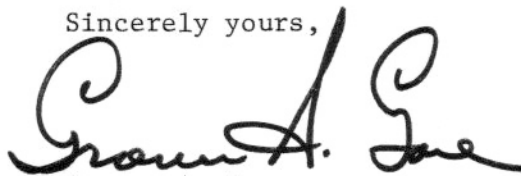
I am in receipt of your note dated December 13, 1974 in which you enclosed your check in the amount of \$2.00 for payment of your 1975 dues in the Brunswick County Historical Society.

Please be advised that the dues have been increased to \$5.00 per year. I will be happy to hold your check in the amount of \$2.00 until you can forward a check to me for \$3.00.

We are happy to have you as a member of our Society and look forward to hearing from you.

With my kind regard and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Grover A. Gore  
Secretary-Treasurer

GAG:bjl

*Dear Mr. Leonard,*

*Check enclosed for \$<sup>2.00</sup> --- \$<sup>3.00</sup> bal. due on 1975  
\$5.00 for 1976.*

*By the way, My papers were approved for  
Membership in The National Society of the Sons of the  
American Revolution through Major Samuel  
Leonard of Brunswick County, N.C.*

*Richard Leonard*



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
RALEIGH 27611

JAMES B. HUNT, JR.  
GOVERNOR

May 3, 1977

THOMAS W. BRADSHAW, JR.  
SECRETARY

Mr. Grover A. Gore  
Attorney at Law  
Southport, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Gore:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of April 13, 1977 concerning the causeway over Eagles Island.

This causeway will be removed in conjunction with the relocation of US 17-74-76 in Brunswick County. Our plans are to remove approximately the top six feet of earth.

Based on sample borings which have been taken in the past, we do not expect to encounter any ballast stones in this material. Should there be any ballast stones in the causeway, which is very unlikely, we estimate these stones would now be from eighteen to twenty feet below the surface. I am, however, forwarding a copy of your letter to our Division Engineer in Wilmington, Mr. Ted Funderburk, requesting that in the event ballast stones are discovered, you be notified. Arrangements could then possibly be made for you to salvage some of these stones from the contractor's waste area.

I trust you will find these arrangements to be satisfactory. If we may be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas W. Bradshaw, Jr.  
Secretary

TWBjr:dt

cc: Mr. Billy Rose  
Mr. C. R. Edgerton  
Mr. L. H. Berrier  
Mr. Ted Funderburk

April 13, 1977

Honorable Tom Bradshaw, Secretary  
N. C. Department of Transportation  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Re: Causeway over Eagles Island

Dear Mr. Bradshaw:

I have been commissioned by the Brunswick County Historical Society to contact you concerning the Causeway over Eagles Island or what actually remains of the old causeway.

This Causeway was commissioned on June 14, 1938 and the road commissioners were appointed to build a causeway across Eagles Island connecting Brunswick County and New Hanover County. The actual date of completion of the causeway is not known or at least I do not have knowledge of it at this time.

This Causeway was constructed and President George Washington crossed Eagles Island on it on his southern tour, and spent the night at Belvedere Plantation on the west banks of Brunswick River. It was a valuable stretch of road during the Revolutionary War Period.

Of course I will not go into all of the historical facts surrounding the Causeway at this time. The purpose of this letter is to request that when the Causeway is demolished that you salvage a sufficient amount of ballast stones from the Causeway bed that will enable the Historical Society to erect an appropriate monument as near the site of the Causeway as possible.

The Historical Society would like to preserve the exact spot of the Causeway and would like for the Department of Transportation to send its assistance.

Charter Members of Brunswick County Historical Society

Mrs. C. Ed. Taylor  
Mrs. Elsie A. Wehr  
Art Newton

Neal Thomas

Harry L. Mintz, Jr.  
Mrs. Betty B. Lygett

E. C. Blake  
Miss Alberta Galloway

Lewis J. Hardie Jr.

Kirby Sullivan  
Lawrence Bridges

David S. Sweeney  
C. E. Crandall

James C. Rowman  
Mrs. Norma Weinstein

Dr. Wm. W. Porter  
Waters Thompson

R. K. McKeithan

Stanton H. Wilburn  
Cornelia Thomas

DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR BRUNSWICK COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WHEREAS, Smith Island, which comprises Cape Fear Point, is of the utmost historical importance insofar as no other North Carolina coastal landscape remains so similar to what the earliest explorers and settlers found upon coming to these shores; and

WHEREAS, the oldest lighthouse and the most extensive earthworks of a Civil War coastal fort still extant in North Carolina are located on this island; and

WHEREAS, Smith Island's associations with the history of the Lower Cape Fear region have been well demonstrated through the discovery there of various Indian sites, through its being the location for Landgrave Thomas Smith II's Indian trading activities, through its being held by the British during 1776 when Cornwallis' troops foraged there, and through its being the summer seat of Governor Benjamin Smith; and

WHEREAS, during the Civil War, Fort Holmes on the island's western shore guarded the main channel to the Cape Fear River while both the island and its adjoining twenty-mile shoals exacerbated the Union blockade by their splitting the Cape Fear River then into two channels and consequently contributed to Wilmington's remaining so long as the Confederacy's major entrepot; and

WHEREAS, Smith Island's maritime significance is well attested through the many rescues conducted at Cape Fear and on Frying Pan Shoals and through its long associations with Coast Guard and river pilot families; and

WHEREAS, development of industrial, residential, and urban conditions on the island would destroy its Civil War and Coast Guard sites and its larger historical significance as a last example of Atlantic coastal wilderness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Brunswick County Historical Society expresses public concern over the future of the ~~island~~ <sup>ISLAND</sup> and goes on record as endorsing efforts being made to acquire and preserve Smith Island for public park purposes and to insure its being retained forever wild, roadless, and historically intact.



*Article II*

October 29, 1964

Dear Member:

The executive committee of the Brunswick County Historical Society met recently and found need to revise Article II, Section I. of the Constitution and By-Laws as follows:

It presently reads: It shall be the purpose of this society to collect, preserve, study, evaluate, publicize, and cooperate with other organizations in promoting the history of Brunswick County, North Carolina.

To be amended as follows: PURPOSE AND OBJECTS.

"This society is organized and is to be operated exclusively for literary and educational purposes. To this end said society shall collect and preserve records and materials and disseminate knowledge and information pertaining to the history of the Brunswick County area, the State of North Carolina and the United States of America.

And in order to pursue the objects and purposes above set forth, the society shall have full power and authority to purchase, lease, and otherwise acquire, own, hold, operate, manage, encumber, convey, and otherwise use and dispose of any kind of real or personal property wherever located, and to do and perform any and all acts and things which may be incidental to or reasonably necessary or convenient for the proper and successful prosecution of the objects and purposes for which this society is created.

The net earnings of this society shall not under any circumstances inure to the benefit of any member of this society.

In the event this said society should ever be dissolved for any reason whatsoever, then and in that event the assets of this society both real and personal shall be distributed to the Department of Archives and History, State of North Carolina to be used for public historical purposes only."

Please read over this carefully, as we will vote on this at our next meeting, in November.

Helen F. Taylor  
Secretary & Treasurer



Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Ebenezer Hewitt (Hewitt) S41632

fn28NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

District of North Carolina

On this third day of May 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the United States for the District aforesaid, personally appeared Ebenezer Hewitt, aged about Sixty four years, resident in Brunswick County in the said district, who being by me first duly Sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late Act of Congress entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war." That he the said Ebenezer Hewitt, enlisted in Wilmington in said district, in the year 1777, & in the month of April as well as he now recollects, in the company commanded by Captain McRee, of the sixth Regiment in the North Carolina line, on the Continental establishment, in the war of the revolution, for during the war; that he continued to serve in the Service of the United States, in different companies and regiments, of the Continental line, until the capture of Charleston, when & where he was taken prisoner by the British, from whom he made his escape in or about the year 1780 – that he afterwards, in the year 1781, joined a troop of horse commanded by Colonel Peter Horry in South Carolina, in the regular Army of the United States, as he understood & served in said Troop as a soldier against the common enemy for about 12 months, & was then discharged at Georgetown in South Carolina, which discharge he has lost; that he was in the battles of Brandywine, Monmouth, & in many skirmishes – and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his Country for Support.

Sworn to & subscribed before me, the day & year first aforesaid.

S/ H. Potter, D. J. U. S. C.

Thomas Callendar,<sup>1</sup> a credible witness, maketh oath that while he was then the service of the United States in the revolutionary Army, these all the aforesaid Ebenezer Hewitt, Serving as a soldier in the first Regiment of the North Carolina line, on the Continental establishment, & knows that he served in said line a very considerable time – he thinks about three years; and certainly more than nine months and one continued service against the common enemy – and further he saith not.

S/ Thomas Callendar

Sworn to before me, at Wilmington in the District aforesaid the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1819.

S/ H. Potter, D. J. U. S. C.

State of North Carolina, Brunswick County

On this 30<sup>th</sup> day April 1821 personally appeared in open Court (being a Court of record) for the said County Ebenezer Hewitt aged Sixty Six years ever a resident of County (except while in the Service of the United States during the Revolutionary War) who being first duly sworn agreeable to law doth on his oath declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War in the Sixth Regiment of North Carolina Troops under the Command of Captain McRee afterwards turned over to the first Regiment of said Troops being in Service from the year 1777 until the Siege of Charleston, when I was taken as a prisoner. Two months after made my escape & joined Col. Oree's [sic, Peter or Daniel Horry's] Troop of horse in South Carolina with whom I served twelve months for which services in Conformity to a law of the United States of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 a certificate issued from the War department entitling me to a pension to commence the third of May 1819 reference being had to No. 14,695 will appear - And I do solemnly Swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 that I have not since that time by gift Sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with the intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of

1 BLWT482-300 –Capt. no papers

Congress "entitled an Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 - Nor have I or any person in trust for m any property or Securities Contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other that what is contained in the Schedule hereunto annexed and by me subscribed.

Sworn to before me the first day of May 1821 in open Court in the Town of Smithville, N.C.

S/ John Julius Gause Cha[sic, Chairman]

S/ Ebenezer Hewitt, X his mark

Schedule of the Property of Ebenezer Hewitt who served as a private in the Revolutionary War I have about \$50 due me in small debts but fear will never recover them as I am much in Want & can't Collect it.

Three hundred & ninety acres of Land Valued (being Very Poor) \$.25 per acr	\$50.00
five Head of Woods Horses (only one in use) Valued at	\$97.50
Twenty five head of Cattle or thereabouts Valued	150.00
About fifteen head of Hogs Worth	120.00
	<u>10.00</u>
	\$417.50

No furniture in house worth taking notice of - nor have I any person to assist me to labor, I have no family except a helpless Wife about Seventy four years of age, & myself from exposure to heats & colds during & Since the Revolutionary War I am unable to perform labor being by occupation a Farmer.

I have Received on my Certificate as a pensioner Eighty Dollars & fifty one Cents.

Sworn to in open Court before me this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 1820 in the Town of Smithville N. C.

S/ John Julius Gause, Chair.

S/ Ebenezer Hewitt, X his mark

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of the Act entitled "An Act for the relief of certain surviving Officers & Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution["] approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1828, I Ebenezer Hewitt of the County of Brunswick in the State of North Carolina do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution for and during the war and continued in its service until its termination; At which period I was a private in Captain Joshua Bowman's Company in the first Regiment of the North Carolina line. And I also declare that I afterwards received Certificates for the reward of \$80, to which I was entitled under the Resolve of Congress passed the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1778. And I further declare that I was not on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1836, on the pension list of the United States. Witness my hand the third of September 1828.

Witness

S/ Ebenezer Hewitt, X his mark

S/ Danl. B. Baker

6/1/2006

**Revolutionary War Encampment on Little River Neck  
Horry County, South Carolina**

by

J. Benjamin Burroughs  
Research Specialist  
Burroughs & Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies  
Coastal Carolina University

In December 1776, General Francis Nash and his army of mostly North Carolina troops left Wilmington, NC with orders to march to St. Augustine, FL. Their goal was to prevent the British from entering Georgia.

The army proceeded to Lockwood's Folly, NC and then on to the Boundary House which was a well known building situated directly on the boundary line of North and South Carolina. The "Boundary Meeting House", as it was sometimes called, had been built in the early 1700s. It was constructed as a meeting place for the early settlers in the area from both states and served as a halfway resting point between Wilmington, NC and Georgetown, SC. It was often used by traveling ministers as a place to stay and hold religious meetings. In 1776 it was the home of Isaac Marion. Isaac's younger brother was the American Revolutionary War hero General Francis Marion, of South Carolina, who was nicknamed "The Swamp Fox" by his British adversaries.<sup>1</sup>

Hugh McDonald, a fourteen year old private accompanying Gen. Nash, left us his account of the army's stay in the Little River area. After the war, McDonald, who was said to be illiterate had someone write down his recollections of the war in diary form. He recorded that the troops were a brigade made up of eight regiments consisting of 9,400 rank-and-file members. This number has been said to be high. North Carolina historian Judge David Schenk estimated the number to be closer to 4,000 while another historian, Jim Daniel, estimates it to be between 5,500 and 7,000.

Jim Daniel, historian emeritus of The NC Historical Reenactment Society, The 6th NC Regiment, writes: "*Judge Schenk's "4,000" refers to the number of North Carolina Continentals that comprised the six NC regiments involved in this campaign and would be essentially correct of the numbers on paper for those units. However, Nash's NC Continental regiments were not at full strength. However, they were bolstered by NC militia, whose numbers are uncertain. I would think that a more likely number for the total might be 5,500 – 7,000.*"<sup>2</sup> Daniel goes on to explain, "*I believe young Hugh's numbers, and mention of "8 regiments" would have included 2 militia regiments, adding 1,500 or more to the nearly 4,000 NC Continentals, resulting in the 5,500 or more that I referenced.*"<sup>3</sup> Either account suggests a substantial force.

6/1/2006

According to McDonald, *"When we got to the Boundary House, we encamped for a short time to rest and Col. Alston, a wealthy gentleman of the neighborhood, came to see Gen. Nash and told him he could show him a better camping ground, which was an elevated neck of land covered with hickory and other good firewood."*<sup>4</sup>

"Col. Alston" was William Allston, who had obtained title to Waties Island and Little River Neck on 7 Oct 1755. A map dated 1764 shows William Allston's house on the eastern point of Little River Neck. Another William Allston of Little River Neck, who was a cousin of this William Allston, had also lived in the Little River area but had died by that time. That Allston had been the father-in-law of Isaac Marion. Isaac had married Rebecca, the late William Allston's daughter.

The distance from the Boundary House to Allston's property by way of the Little River Bridge (located in the vicinity of the Little River Swing-span Bridge in 2006) was approximately 10 miles. That would probably have been the route that most of the army would have taken as there would have been many supply wagons, cannons and horses. Some of the troops might have taken a more direct route across the half-mile ferry (between the Boundary House and across Little River to the Allston Plantation).

McDonald goes on to describe the Allston plantation, saying, *"The trees were covered with long moss from the top to the ground, and of this we made excellent beds. There we stayed about a month waiting for further orders, where we cut and cleared about 100 acres of land. From this pleasant place we marched for Charleston and crossed the Pee Dee at a place called Winyaw about half way between Georgetown and the Inlet...thence to Charleston...here we received orders not to go any further toward Augustine."*<sup>5</sup>

They camped at Hadrells Point (Mount Pleasant area) near Charleston until March 15, 1777, where they eventually received orders to march north and join General George Washington's Army. On Oct. 4, 1777, they participated in the battle of Germantown in Pennsylvania. General Nash lost his leg to a cannonball in the engagement at the Chew House near Germantown, and subsequently bled to death. In the presence of General Washington's entire army, he was buried in the Towamencin Mettinghouse Mennonite Cemetery at Kulpsville, near Lansdale, Pennsylvania.

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<sup>1</sup> C.B. Berry, IRQ, V. 4, No. 4, p. 13

<sup>2</sup> E-mail from Jim Daniel to Ben Burroughs, 14 Mar 2005

<sup>3</sup> E-mail from Jim Daniel to Ben Burroughs, 22 Mar 2005

<sup>4</sup> A Teenager in the Revolution, Eastern Acorn Press, 1982, The National Historical Society

<sup>5</sup> A Teenager in the Revolution, Eastern Acorn Press, 1982, The National Historical Society

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Samuel Hickmon (Hickman) S9581

fn20MD

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of North Carolina, Columbus County McKay Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions November Term 1832

On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of Columbus now in person Samuel Hickman a resident of North Carolina in the county of Columbus aged Seventy One years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832 That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year on thousand seven hundred seventy eight on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, he believes he was a resident of Kingston District South Carolina when he enlisted for three years with Lieut. Weakly [sic, John Weekly] and served in the 4<sup>th</sup> Reg. of the Continental line he believes, under the following officers he was marched to Cat Island Fort below George Town [sic, Georgetown] South Carolina and attached to Captain James Mitchell's Company from thence he was marched to Fort Johnston on James Island South Carolina and was attached to Captain Brook Roberts' Company from thence was marched by Lieutenant Capers to Purysburg where he Joined General Linkhorn's [sic, Benjamin Lincoln's] Army and was attached to Captain James Mitchell, Ephram Mitchell, Roberts or Davises Company (but does not recollect which) of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Artillery Commanded by Colonel Roberts & Major Grempey [sic, John Faucheraud Grimke]<sup>1</sup> from there to the two Sisters ferry on the Savener [sic, Savannah] River where we Joined General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] from thence to Mattises or Silver Bluff<sup>2</sup> as well as he recollects in order to Joined General Ash [sic, John Ashe] on Brier Creek [sic, Briar Creek], but was not in time he was marched back to the two Sisters ferry to Purysburg where he Joined General Mutre [sic, William Moultrie] from thence to Charleston from thence out to Bacon Bridge [sic, Bacon's Bridge] and Joined General Lincoln, then to Stono at which place Colonel Roberts was killed after this battle he was attached to Captain Harmon Davises Company and marched to Charleston from thence to Cat Island Fort from thence to Wilmington North Carolina then to Fayetteville and then to Hillsborough North Carolina where he Joined General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] and was attached to the Maryland artillery commanded by Colonel Harison [sic, Harrison?] & Major Mazard<sup>3</sup> from thence marched to Prince Edward County Virginia then to Roan [sic, Rowan] County North Carolina at which place he was discharged by Captain Harmon Davis in August or September 1781 which discharge he has lost.

Again in the year 1781 in October or November he enlisted with Colonel Horry for 12 months in the light Horse and was attached to Captain William Weathers' Company and served six or seven months at which time he received permission to enlist for three years which he did with Captain Albert Rue of the second Regiment of South Carolina Troops was marched to the Congaree [River] and Joined General Huger and was put under Captain Joseph Walley and marched to Ashley Hill and Joined General Greene's Army from thence was marched to Charleston where he remained until peace and was discharged by General Greene which discharge is also lost.

**He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.**

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ Samuel Hickmon

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1 FPA W11088

2 Fort Galphin. <http://gaz.irshelby.com/fortgalphin.htm> be

3 In other sources, this name is spelled Mazarett.