



NEWSLETTER

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

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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, slices, and discussion. To publish a newsletter which contains news of the Society's activities, research papers and articles that pertain to genealogy.

Society Officers

President: Unoccupied
Vice-President: James Green
Secretary: Roberta Brady
Treasurer: Sandra Ward
Directors: Don Hickman
Jim Marlowe
Dave Lewis
Newsletter Editor: Dave Lewis

BCHS Website

www.bchs1764.org
Webmaster: Jimmy Green

AUGUST MEETING TO BE HELD AT BEMC IN SUPPLY, NC AUGUST 09, 2010 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the *Brunswick County Historical Society* will be held on Monday August 9 at the Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation Building, 795 Ocean Highway West, Supply, NC. The meeting begins at 7:30 P.M. We always meet the 2nd Monday in February, May, August and November.

The February 2010 issue of the *NEWSLETTER* began the 50th Volume. Volume I, Number 1 was printed September 1961. A complete set of the Newsletter from September 1961 to November 2009 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).

Gwen Causey has accepted the nomination for President of the BCHS. This will complete our list of Officers for the next term. Thank you Gwen. The BCHS Officers are listed on the sidebar.

Mr. Christopher Gibbons from the Brunswick County Planning Dept. will be at our August meeting. He will have updates concerning the Brunswick County Historical Survey including a Power-Point presentation on the status and process of the survey.

Brunswick locations named to “Most Threatened Historic Places List”

Dr. Jeffrey Crow, deputy secretary of the North Carolina Office of Archives and History and the state historic preservation officer; has partnered with Historic Wilmington Foundation to announce the fifth annual list of the “Most Threatened Historic Places in Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear region”.

The initiative is a part of the foundation’s ongoing campaign to preserve the unique architectural heritage and quality of life of southeastern North Carolina including the rare, wooden grave markers at some of Brunswick County’s cemeteries and rural AME Zion churches throughout the region. These extant examples of a regional mourning tradition are threatened by neglect and lack of proper attention, organizers said.

Many AME Zion churches in the region have seen their congregations dwindle due to economic and demographic changes. Reaves AME Zion Church in Navassa and Moore’s Chapel AME Zion Church off NC 133 in Brunswick County became endangered when they no longer housed a vibrant, economically viable church to maintain them. They have been added to the most-threatened list.

The purpose of the Most Threatened Historic Places program is to focus attention on threatened sites and to illustrate the importance and benefits of historic preservation. The program raises public awareness, spark debate about heritage, generate creative new solutions and ideas for sites in desperate need of attention and rally public and private resources to preserve historic places.

This program helps the public understand the broad range of preservation concerns. Historic preservation is more than saving a famous landmark; it can and must preserve the old neighborhoods, schools, churches, cemeteries and commercial districts of the lower Cape Fear region.

This list was derived thru public nomination process and 11 new suggestions and five resubmissions by citizens throughout the foundation’s three-county service area. The selection process included diversity of property types, historical significance, geographic distribution and degree of threat.

The foundation’s staff and selection committee saw a sharp rise in nominations this year after last year’s decline in submittals.

Editor’s Note: Information for the above article was found in the Brunswick Beacon, the Wilmington Star and the Preservation North Carolina web site, www.presnc.org. Should the BCHS be actively involved with this program?

NORTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGY

WHAT TO DO WHEN HUMAN BURIALS ARE ACCIDENTLY UNCOVERED

Why are bones sometimes found?

In North Carolina, many unmarked graves exist without gravestones, fences, tombstones, or other surface indications of their presence. These are chiefly the graves of prehistoric and historic Indians, which may never have been marked at all; and human graves which had been identified at one time in the past, but the markings are no longer visible. As a result, bones are often found during ordinary ground disturbance activities such as the construction of new homes, utilities, or roads; in the agricultural or industrial use of a site; or the excavation of sand borrow pits. Bones are also sometimes found eroding out of areas

exposed by natural erosion, floodwater scouring, or sand dune formation. N.C. General Statute 70, Article 3 establishes procedures to follow when human bones are accidentally discovered.

Who is involved?

- Private citizens
- State and Local Law Enforcement
- Medical Examiners
- State Archaeologist
- North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs

What should you do if you discover bones?

Do not touch or disturb the bones. Notify the state or local police and the regional medical examiner about the discovery and location.

What does the Medical Examiner do?

The Medical Examiner investigates the discovery to determine whether the bones are human, and whether a criminal investigation may be warranted. If G.S. 130-198 does not apply, the Chief Medical Examiner then notifies the State Archaeologist, who immediately conducts an archaeological investigation of the site. Throughout these investigations, the police authorities should insure that the site is protected from further damage.

What does the State Archaeologist do?

The State Archaeologist investigates the site to determine the age, cultural association and identity of the burial. If the State Archaeologist determines that the burial is that of a Native American, the Commission of Indian Affairs is notified. The State Archaeologist consults with the landowner to determine whether the burial can remain undisturbed. In the case of development projects, the owner and State Archaeologist discuss whether there are prudent and feasible steps the owner can take to protect the burial. If it is impossible to avoid future harm to the burial, the State Archaeologist will arrange to have the remains removed.

What does the Commission of Indian Affairs do?

The archaeological investigation of Indian burials is monitored by the Commission of Indian Affairs to insure that the remains are treated respectfully.

Please remember: Once bones or artifacts are removed from the site, valuable information concerning the identity and age of the human remains is lost. Therefore, it is important not to disturb the site in any way until the State Archaeologist can conduct an investigation and record the discovery.

Bibliography

North Carolina General Statute 70, Art. 3 - The Unmarked Human Burial and Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act.

For Further Information, Contact:

STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Office of State Archaeology

4619 Mail Service Center

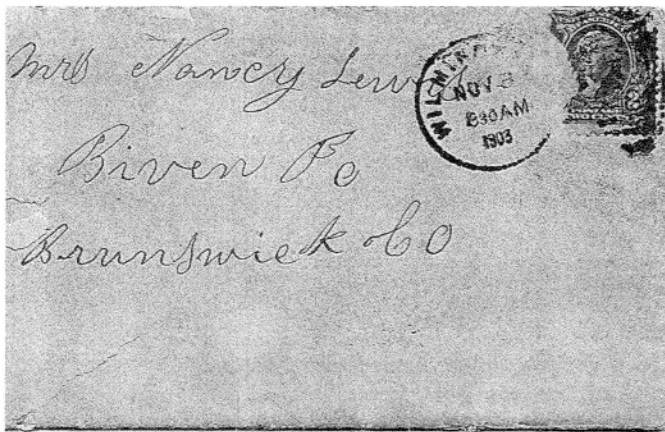
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JAMES HARKER LEWIS

Written by David E. Lewis

A letter was recently found written by James Harker Lewis to his wife Nancy Fulford Lewis. This letter was postmarked November 03, 1903 in Wilmington, NC about one month before he was drown in a shipwreck off Oak Island while trying to cross the Cape Fear River bar during a storm.

The letter was transcribed as written, notice no punctuation marks.



Addressed to and postmarked Nov. 3, 1903, Wilmington, NC. Mailed with a 2 cent stamp.

Mrs Nancy Lewis
Biven PO
Brunswick Co

Nov th 1 1903

Dear Wife it is with ---sure I write you a few lines to you kno that I am well hoping few lines will find you all well in joying good health I received your letter last Tuseday and were glad to here from you and would be glad to see you all we caught A Bout 100 Bbls fish Wednesday I will Be come home some time the last of next week So I will close for this time
By doing I remain yours asever

James H. Lewis

James was a well known fisherman, farmer and respected ship captain living in the Monogram area, today known as Shell Point. He was survived by his wife Nancy and their eight children. In the spring following his death, Nancy moved to Wilmington with seven of her children and all their belongings.

James' body washed ashore at Southport and is buried in The Old Smithville Cemetery. Nancy is interred at Sabbath Home Baptist Church Cemetery in Holden Beach next to her mother, Anzie Fulford.

James Harker Lewis is my GGrandfather.

ROBERT HOWE

North Carolina's Highest-Ranking Officer during the Revolutionary War

In 1732, Robert Howe was born in Brunswick County, North Carolina. He emerged as the colonies' highest-ranking officer during the Revolutionary War. In November 1786, Howe died at his home in Brunswick County.

His military career began in 1754, when appointed Captain of the Bladen County militia. In 1756, Howe was appointed Justice of the Peace and was elected to represent Bladen County in the General Assembly from 1760 to 1775.

While in the General Assembly, Howe and Royal Governor William Tryon established a friendship. In 1761, Tryon appointed Howe to the Supreme Court for the Wilmington District, and in 1766, to the Court of Exchequer. From 1765 to 1767 and from 1769 to 1773, Howe commanded Fort Johnston. During the 1760s, Governor Tryon called on Howe and his Fort Johnston troops to put down the Regulator Rebellion.

During the 1770s, Royal Governor Josiah Martin and Howe frequently disagreed. In 1771, Martin replaced Governor Tryon and shortly afterward removed Howe from the Court of Exchequer; in 1773, he relinquished Howe of command of Fort Johnston. The attachment clause controversy further divided Howe and Martin. The provincial government deplored the attachment clause, which allowed creditors to "attach property owned in North Carolina by non-residents . . . to satisfy their debts." Governor Martin supported the decision to remove the clause, but colonial lawmakers were determined to keep the law intact. While leading the movement to keep the attachment clause, Howe associated with the Sons of Liberty and the American struggle for independence.

North Carolina's General Assembly met in 1773 and established a Committee of Correspondence. Howe was one of nine committee members assigned to investigate Parliamentary Acts that "may relate to or effect the British Colonies in America." The Committee reported their findings to all colonies and united the fight for America's freedom.

In 1775, Howe trained the Brunswick County militia, received a colonel's appointment, and assumed command of the Second North Carolina Continentals. Howe led his 428 officers and men to Norfolk, Virginia to reinforce Colonel William Woodford's army, then battling Lord Dunmore. He assumed command of the American troops and defeated Lord Dunmore. Although Howe had proved his military prowess, the Second North Carolina Regiment disbanded shortly after the battle in Norfolk.

Afterwards, Howe was appointed military advisor for North Carolina's Provincial Congress. In 1777, he led North Carolina troops to meet Major General Charles Lee, commander of the Southern Department. Now a major general, Howe was the highest ranking North Carolinian in the Continental Army. When General Lee left the Southern Department, James Moore assumed command. However, in the spring of 1777, Moore was ordered to North Carolina and Howe became Commander of the Southern Department and the highest-ranking officer in the South.

As Commander of the Southern Department, Howe was to defend the southern colonies. In the summer of 1778, Howe led the Continentals to the Georgia-Florida border to attack the British troops at St. Augustine, Florida. Fearing defeat, Howe urged Congress to abandon the campaign. But Congress persisted. After several months of chasing the British, Howe retreated northward. The campaign in Florida

was disastrous for Howe. His inability to unify command undermined American ability to win.

Howe's reputation was tarnished by his defeat in Florida, so he desperately wanted to prove his worth. He led the troops of the Southern Department to defend Savannah, Georgia. Howe lost the city in December 1778, however, after a surprise attack by Lieutenant-Colonel Archibald Campbell. Soon after, all of Georgia fell to the British and Howe was relieved as commander of the Southern Department.

Beginning in 1779, Howe served with General George Washington on the Hudson, commanded troops protecting the Connecticut border at Ridgefield, and in 1780, commanded Fort West Point. Although Congress appointed him in 1785 as part of a commission to negotiate the land in Ohio with western Indians, Howe returned to North Carolina, where the General Assembly passed a resolution thanking him for his devotion to the state. In hopes of gaining a state legislative seat, Howe campaigned in Brunswick County, but in November 1786, he suffered a fever and died.

Sources:

Charles E. Bennett and Donald R. Lennon, *A Quest for Glory: Major-General Robert Howe and the American Revolution* (Chapel Hill, 1991) and Hugh F. Rankin, *The North Carolina Continentals*

(Chapel Hill, 1971).

By Richard Carney, North Carolina History Project

ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MEMORIAL

IN MEMORY OF ZION'S WWII VETS

Brunswick Beacon, July 15, 2010

Zion United Methodist Church dedicated the first of many memorials in its new memorial garden on Sunday, May 30, 2010. After a service dedicated to all military past and present, the Rev. Willie Frizzelle led church members outside to dedicate the memorial with a special prayer of remembrances and thanks.

The first memorial is dedicated to World War II veterans that were and are members of Zion United Methodist Church.

The Dakota Mahogany Granite Memorial is a small token of love and appreciation for these church members. Perhaps these men will not get to see the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC but in their own corner of the world at Zion United Methodist Church, a special place will be claimed forever so all that pass by will remember them and the service they gave to the country.

The memorial was given by friends and family of Alfred Lee Flowers.

Names on the memorial are Alfred Lee Flowers, Jim Rich, Lee Wescott, Morrison Watkins, Arthur Burnette, Eugene Osborne, Roy Rabon, Ed Robinson, Grover Sellers, John Sellers, Aubrey Smith, Roy Swain, Rob Ward, Harold Watkins and Marvin Watkins.

The Corner Store That Is No More

By Ouida Hewett

Our neighborhood corner stores have all but disappeared in Brunswick County. Perhaps we have one or two around somewhere that still serve the folks in their neighborhoods., but for the most part we see huge franchises move in and take over. I think this is a loss to, everyone. The corner stores were usually family owned and surely hold many sweet memories of the times gone so swiftly by. We had a Store on the corner of what is now H&H Rd and NC130 or Holden Beach Rd It was called Will Holden's or Mr. Wills's Store.

It always smelled to molasses, tobacco peppermint candy and grape jelly. At least those were my favorite scents. I remember in about the year 1939 and my first experience of going to the store alone or as I would say, "right by myself." We grew up reading The State Port Pilot and Star News at our house so mom sent me to get one of these papers. I can't remember which one.

It surely was her doing. She always believed in giving early responsibility to us children when later we had greater responsibilities. I was getting ready to start school at the "Old Hog Bay School" which later turned out to be Cedar Grove School., so letting me walk a little further each time I went along was preparing me for the long walk to the bus stop at Ox Pen bridge. To me it was many miles, but it was just another block to the bus stop.

My errand that day was to buy a paper and return home. No candy, no eggs to pay for anything, just a coin for the paper. We did not have sidewalks along the dirt road, just a wide ditch to jump into if we heard a car coming behind us or in front of us. I had been to the store before, but that day seemed more special. I don't remember why unless it was the paper purchase.

The familiar smell of tobacco, tins, cigars, rolling tobacco displayed always on top of the glass shelves that contained candy, treats, etc was my favorite part of the store. I picked up the paper, gave Mr. Will my coin and began to leave. Of course, being Mr. Will, he said "Now t wait a minute" I thought maybe I did not have enough money, but he said "Pic our candy and you can go" Of course I like the peppermints, so I reached and got a handful. Smiled thank you.... trudged on back home.

Unbeknown to me, my mom had monitored my trekking to the store and for the third of fourth time, seeing how I handled the traffic, the people, timing etc, preparing me for the long walk to the school bus stop coming up. I passed the test that day.

I always loved going to Mr. Will's Corner Store, whether it be shopping for mom, trading eggs for something she needed or just browsing around for a few minutes. The smell in his store was so appetizing...you just wanted to come back for more.

"Corner Store" is just about the past memories that we think about often. Now we have a Gas Station, convenient store where people sometime gather, but it's not the Corner Store anymore.

There was simplicity and innocence about those early days in the 1930's, 1940's when corner stores formed a large part of our simpler experience. We enjoyed each visit at the Corner Store and I still cherish the many memories of those visits. Mr and Ms holden have gone on to be with Jesus but leaves a legacy among the neighbors that we will always cherish.