



NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME LII

FEBRUARY 2012

NUMBER 1

Organized June 21, 1956

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.

Society Officers For the 2011 - 2012 Term

President: Gwen Causey
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

FEBRUARY MEETING TO BE HELD AT BEMC IN SUPPLY, NC FEBRUARY 13, 2012 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the *Brunswick County Historical Society* will be held on Monday February 13th 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 2012 issue of the *NEWSLETTER* begins the 52nd 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).

DUES are now payable unless you are a **Life Member**. The annual dues are \$15.00 for an active member or \$150.00 to become a Life Member. Checks may be mailed to the **BCHS** in care of Sandra Ward or bring check or cash to the February meeting. Use the membership application found on page 7 for contact changes or pass along to your friends or relatives.

James Herbert Robinson will be our guest speaker for the February meeting. Mr. Robinson has been involved with the Ham Radio network in Brunswick County for many years and his program will explain how it effects our area. This will be a very interesting and different topic for our members and quest.

Pictures and Documents

BCHS's project to scan, record and preserve old historical pictures and documents will continue at the next BCCHS's meeting to be held on Monday night February 13, 2012. You may bring any old pictures and or documents to be scanned between 5:30 and 7:30. Your information will not leave your sight and you will be able to take them home with you.



In preparation for this project, make a list of the people or objects in the photos with dates and or information to be included with the scanned object. Please help us to preserve Brunswick County's history.

Scholarship Fund

The BCCHS scholarship fund now has a total of nine hundred and eighty one dollars. A discussion on how to proceed with a scholarship for Brunswick County High School Students was conducted at the November 2011 meeting and will continue with the February 2012 meeting.

Make you plans to attend the February meeting, your input is vital to this project.

Video

It was agreed at the last Society meeting that any interviews conducted with residents of the county, would be done using voice recording with still pictures instead of video taping. Video may be considered in the future.

Historical Manuscript Project

Leslie Bell, Brunswick County Planning Director, approached the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners at their November 21, 2011 meeting explaining that in August 2009, they had approved a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Landmark Preservation Assoc. to conduct a Comprehensive Architectural/Site Survey of Historical Resources in Brunswick County. This project was completed in September 2010 and serves as a precursor to this proposed manuscript preparation that will be used for a book publication of the history and architectural development of Brunswick County. While this PSA does not include the final publication of the finished work, it is intended to produce a publication-ready document on the history and architectural development of Brunswick County.

A Request for Proposals was prepared by the Brunswick County Planning and Community Development Department, in conjunction with the State of North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) represented by Ms. Claudia Brown, with three firms responding. As part of the selection process, a Manuscript Selection Committee was formed that included the Brunswick Co. Planning Dept. staff, Ms. Musette Steck (Southport Historical Society) and Mr. Dave Lewis (BCCHS). Following proposal reviews and phone interviews, the firm MdM Historical Consultants, Inc. of Durham, NC was recommended by the Selection Committee based on the following criteria:

1. Technical Approach
2. Prior Related Experience
3. Experience of Personnel
4. Responsiveness to Client needs
5. Cost-Effectiveness
6. Creativity

Board of Commissioners Chairman Bill Sue thanked the staff and Historical Committee for their efforts before moving to approve a contract with MdM Historical Consultants, Inc. to prepare an Architectural Survey Manuscript as the next phase and as a follow-up to the Historical Architectural/Site Survey. The vote of approval was unanimous.

Old Smithville

Letter written by Sgt. Thaddeus C. Davis, January 29, year unknown, Morehead City, NC. Transcribed as written.

In your issue of January 4th, your able correspondent, the writer of the reminiscences of Old Smithville, criticized my statement of recent date, that the 20th regiment had their dress parades between the Owens place and the Academy because there was not room in the garrison.

We had many friends and relatives in that regiment, and were closely associated with it, from April 1862, until they left the State. What they did before this time we know not of, but during the time above mentioned my company was of the command of the 20th regiment and the order of drill were as follows: Squad drill 7 o'clock a.m. Company drill 10 o'clock a.m. which were in Franklin Square or anywhere in the streets. Regimental drill at 3 o'clock p.m., which were in the old field west of the town, and dress parade at 5 o'clock p.m. between the Owens place and the Academy. This duty was performed while I was associated with the regiment from April 1862, until it left for Virginia.

Gen. T. F. Toon, in his history of the 29th Regiment, says: "The 20th Regiment was organized in August 1861, with Alfred Iverson, Colonel; Frank I. Faison, Lieut. Colonel; and W. Toon, Major. The regiment remained at Smithville, Fort Caswell and Wilmington, detailed by companies, where they remained until ordered to Richmond, Va., where they arrived a few days before the battle of Seven Pines, with 1,011 men, rank and file, and participated in that battle May 31, 1862."

This number of troops on dress parade, in double file, would occupy a space of 1275 feet. My company, 125 men, would occupy a space of 160 feet, which would make a total of 1435 feet. The Garrison, I think, is 450 feet, which was not space enough for half of the companies of the 20th Regiment to have their dress parades at the same time.

Companies D and G of the 40th Regiment were the only troops at Smithville when the 20th Regiment

left there for Richmond, Va. The 51st Regiment was the first troop that went to Smithville after the 20th Regiment and they remained but a short time.

In my communication to your paper not long since, on blockade running, I omitted to mention that when the war closed in 1865, the following Cape Fear pilots were at Nassau, to wit: Jacob Price, C. C. Morse, Tom Garrison, John P. Savage, Tom Grissom, Richard Doshier, James Bell, William Bell, Mr. Adkins, Mr. Burrows, and Mr. Newton.

They went to Halifax, N.S. and bought a vessel and loaded her with good and sailed home. On reaching the Cape Fear river, they were taken, their vessel and cargo was confiscated, and they were sent prisoners to Fort Macon, N.C., where they were robbed of their money and effects, and guarded by what was known as "Buffalows" (that is to say North Carolinians in the Yankee army.) We had none of them on the Cape Fear, until the latter part of June 1865, when they were paroled and permitted to return to their homes.

I think that Lewis Pepper and John Anderson were the only Cape Fear pilots that died with yellow fever during the war. (Note: John Wesley Galloway, of Smithville, captain of the Coast Guards, stationed along the beach west of Fort Caswell, went to Nassau in 1864. While there he died with the Yellow Fever.)

Much has been beautifully written about Old Smithville, Franklin Square, and the stately oaks, but the writer of the Reminiscences of Old Smithville, in your last issue on this subject, went deep down in my heart.

When I think of the by gone days in that dear old Town, which has historically hallowed memories by the encampment of the Confederate soldier, and is the delight of my by gone days. I dearly love to read and ponder over this subject, but to attempt to write on it, my eyes become dim and my pen ceases to write.

Though a mere boy at the time of the war, I am proud of my record as a Confederate soldier; I know of no duty left undone that I could accomplish, and I am thankful.

I trust that the writer of the reminiscences of Old Smithville to your paper, may live long, and continue his reminiscences to your paper, and when we all pass over the river may not a single Confederate soldier fail to answer to his name "when the general role is called over there."

Thaddeus C. Davis, Sgt. 1st Co "I" 36th Reg't NCT (2nd Reg't NC Art'y). Enlisted on October 16, 1861, age 19. Born in Carteret County, NC, Promoted to Sgt. November 14, 1862. Transferred to: 3rd Co "G" 40th Reg't NCT (3rd Reg't NC Art'y) November 4, 1863. Captured January 15, 1865 at Ft. Fisher, POW until May 19, 1865 at Elmira, NY when he took Oath of Allegiance. Thaddeus C. Davis became Postmaster of Morehead City, NC on November 2, 2886.

Belvidere Plantation

Belvidere Plantation was the last rice-growing plantation on the Brunswick River. Originally owned by William Dry and later by his son-in-law, Benjamin Smith, consisted of 900 acres of pine land and 200 acres of rice land with 160 acres under cultivation. Belvidere was located two miles from Wilmington at the junction of the road leading from Wilmington to Fayetteville and the road leading to Georgetown, SC.

Belvidere has been described as "a comfortable and convenient two-story dwelling house and a building one and one-half story with kitchen, wash house, stable, carriage house, smokehouse, etc...all of which buildings are of brick, put up in the most substantial manner." By 1958, only one brick building remained on the plantation site; a one and one-half story brick building with a wooden addition to the rear. It was possibly the overseer's house.

President George Washington on his "Southern Tour" came to Wilmington in 1791, at which time he visited General Benjamin Smith at Belvidere. Tradition says that on the morning of April 26, 1791, General Washington left Wilmington by barge and proceeded towards Belvidere through a canal across Eagles Island. There at the dock he was met by his host, General Smith and a large and colorful assembly with thirteen young ladies, repre-

senting the thirteen original colonies.

Benjamin Smith was born in Brunswick County in 1757, the son of Thomas Smith and Sarah Moore. He rose to the rank of Colonel in the Continental Army, aide-de-camp to General Washington, Major General of the State Militia (1794-1810), Governor of North Carolina (1810-1811), and Grand Master of the North Carolina Masons (1809-1811).

In 1789 Benjamin was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill at which time he donated a 20,000 acre tract of land to the school. In 1851 the university named their library building "Smith Hall" in his honor. Smith Hall is now Playmakers Theater.

Belvidere was also reported to be the home of another North Carolina Governor, Daniel L. Russell. Governor Russell lived there from the late 1890's until his death on May 14, 1908. (Editors Note: There seems to be conflicting information between various sources as to whether Gov. Russell lived at Belvidere or Belville Plantations.)

William Watts Jones was the owner of Belvidere Plantation in 1831 and in June of that year he offered the plantation for sale. In the advertisement he mentions that "there is a barn built of wood directly at the river from whence the rice can be conveniently thrown into a flat or vessel and any vessel that can come over the bar can come to the barn. I have endeavored to render as permanent as possible all the repairs and improvements".

James Moore was the owner of Belvidere Plantation between 1858 and 1860. In 1860 it was reported that he had produced 494,100 bushels of rice at a value of \$9,765.00. Mr. Moore sold 837 acres of his plantation for \$7,300.

The Civil War caused no disruption of rice planting on the Lower Cape Fear. Except for deteriorating facilities and badly worn or broken tools and implements, the rice crops continued to be produced as usual. Wilmington remained open as a port to the very end of the war, and it seems likely that rice moved out from there in its normal routine, although in somewhat different trade channels. After the War it was a completely different story.

By the mid 1870's other uses were being suggested for the abandoned rice fields. On April 13, 1874, a group of Wilmington citizens took a tour of the nearby rice fields and their report printed in the Wilmington Star the following day stated that: "...we visited the noted truck farm Belvidere now owned by Messrs. Willard brothers and located on the Brunswick River. Here we saw twenty acres in English peas, six acres in cucumbers, a field of thirty thousand cabbage plants, and other vegetables in almost endless profusion. We also saw here, much to our gratification, what may be done with our rice lands by a thorough system of drainage. About ten acres of the Belvidere tract, immediately on the Brunswick River, were formerly cultivated in rice; but that crop has long since been abandoned, and by the aid of a pump worked by a windmill, the land is kept sufficiently dry, even during the heaviest freshets in the river (when the natural drainage is entirely stopped), to produce the finest cabbage, oats, corn, and in fact every crop that has yet been tried. The soil is as loamy and friable as that of a well-cultivated garden, and presents an incontrovertible argument in favor of the dry-culture system, which we verily believe is destined to make every acre of rice land in the Cape Fear section worth one hundred dollars".

The last recorded rice crop along the Lower Cape Fear and possibly the Belvidere Plantation was in 1909.

Sources:

Land of the Golden River, Vol. II, L. P. Hall

Golden Grains of White: Rice Planting on the Lower Cape Fear. James M. Clifton

BCHS Newsletter, February 1966

Brunswick County 1860 Rice Plantation Economy, John B. Well, III, 1972

Wilmington newspaper articles, dated; April 14, 1874, November 7, 1880, November 15, 1964

Notes compiled by William M. Reaves, Wilmington, 1988.

Ebenezer Hewett (Hewitt) Pension, 1821

HEWITT, EBENEZER Brunswick County P.& Q.S. Ct. Mts. April Term, 1821 State of North Carolina (Brunswick County) On this 30th 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 McKee 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. Greens 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 18th March 1818 a certificate issued from the War department entitling me to a pension to commence the third of May 1819 _ ence being had to No. 14695 will appear - And I do solemnly Swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th 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 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 18th 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. John Julius Gause Chs. Ebenezer (X) Hewitt 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. \$50 three hundred & ninety acres of Land Vald. at 97.50 being very poor 25 pr. acre five head of Woods Horses only one in use Valued at 150.

Twenty five head of Cattle or thereabouts 120.
About fifteen head of Hogs Worth 10 ----- 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 pen-
sioner Eighty dollars & fifty one cents.
Sworn to in open Court before me this 1st day of
May 1820 in the Town of Smithville N.Ca.
(signed) John Julius Gause, Chm. Ebenezer (X)
Hewitt

Transcribed as written.

North Carolina Maps

North Carolina Maps is a comprehensive, online collection of historic maps of the Tar Heel State. Featuring maps from three of the states largest map collections -- the North Carolina State Archives, the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill, and the Outer Banks History Center-- North Carolina Maps provides an unprecedented level of access to these materials. When complete, North Carolina Maps will contain over 1,500 maps, ranging in date from the late 1500s to the 1960s, and will include detailed maps for each of North Carolina's one hundred counties.

North Carolina Maps is made possible by a Library Services and Technology Act grant distributed through the State Library of North Carolina. Access at www.lib.unc.edu/ncmaps/index.html

Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table

The Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table originated at Moores Creek Battlefield in Currie, NC. The inaugural meeting was held on November 18, 2009.

Their mission statement states, the CFRWRT "will educate, preserve, conserve, and disseminate infor-

mation on the sites, battles, campaigns, and socio-political issues of the colonial period from the French and Indian War through the Revolutionary War (1754-1783) in North Carolina."

The Round Table will meet quarterly at various locations in the Cape Fear area. Those interested in membership can call Moores Creek Battlefield at 910-283-5591 or email cfrwrt@yahoo.com.

Plantation for Sale or Lease

Wilmington Gazette, May 5, 1804

FOR SALE, OR TO BE LEASED for a term of Years, The Plantation, Tavern and Ferry on Lockwood's Folly, Adjoining the Court-House.

The House contains seven Bedrooms and one Dining room above; a Hall and Parlour, below with four fire-places, Stables and every other necessary out buildings. The Garden and orchard are capacious and contain a variety of fruit trees.

The Plantation contains 900 acres; 400 are under fence; 80 acres are Tide Swamp, and a part in order for planting. Boats from four to five feet draught of water may load at the Landing; Vessels from six to seven feet draught of water may go over the Bar, which is but 12 miles to Cape Fear Bar; a Store may be established here to great advantage; and the Ferry, itself, is becoming from the great increase of Settlers, every day more productive.

Apply on the premises to DANIEL BELLUNE Brunswick County, N.C.

Transcribed as written:

"Propriety Concessions Relating to the Lower Cape Fear," 1663

After Charles II returned the Stuart dynasty to the English throne in 1660, he rewarded eight of his loyal supporters by naming them Proprietors of the king's newly established colony, Carolina. The document, "Proprietary Concessions Relating to

the Lower Cape Fear," contains the plans for the earliest settlement of the Carolinas under the proprietorship.

The "Concessions" begin with a summary of the charter granted in 1663 by Charles II to the Earl of Clarendon; the Duke of Albemarle; Anthony Cooper, Lord Ashley, later Earl of Shaftesbury; and five other Lords Proprietors. It continues with a series of eight provisions, granting lands, political privileges, etc., for all persons who would settle there.

A settlement established on the west bank of the Cape Fear River in 1666 soon attracted colonists from Barbados, New England, and elsewhere. Despite the fact that leaders had laid out and settled a village they named Charles Town, the endeavor was not successful. Instead of becoming the center of activity in Carolina, the Cape Fear settlement was abandoned. By 1670 a new settlement named Charles Town (later Charleston) had been established in the southern part of Carolina and the Lords Proprietors shifted their interests southward.

Editors Note: This original document can be viewed @ www.archives.ncdcr.gov/exhibits/treasures/1600_1763.html

County Officers For 1867-1868

Position	Name
Attorney	M. London Wilmington
Clerk County Court	Wm. M.D. Moore
Clerk Superior Court	John T. Wescott
Chairman County Court	D.L. Russell, Sr. Lumberton
Clerk and Master In Equity	J. W. Galloway
Coroner	
Register	Lewis A. Galloway
Sheriff	D.K. Mints
Trustee	Rufus Galloway
Treasure Public	Wm. B. Doshier

Source: Branson's North Carolina Directory
1867-1868

Membership Application ... Invite a Friend to Join Brunswick County Historical Society

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail _____

New: _____ or Renewal _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Mail this form with your check to: P.O. Box 874, Shallotte, NC 28459

Annual Dues: Individual \$15 Life Membership \$150