



# NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME LII

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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, 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 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](http://www.bchs1764.org)  
Webmaster: Jimmy Green

## MAY MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE BCCC Bolivia, NC MAY 14, 2012 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the *Brunswick County Historical Society* will be held on May 14th at the Brunswick Community College Teaching Auditorium. Located in Building A, Second Floor. The meeting begins at 7:30 P.M. We always meet the 2nd Monday in February, May, August and November.

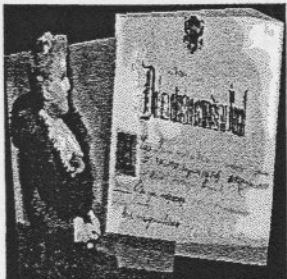
The February 2012 issue of the *NEWSLETTER* began the 52nd Volume. Volume I, Number 1 was printed September 1961. A complete set of the Newsletter from September 1961 to May 2012 can be found in the Wilson Library at UNC-Chapel Hill, NC and at the New Hanover County Public Library North Carolina Room in Wilmington, NC. There were no publications of Volume 17, #3 & 4 (1977) and Volume 18, #1 (1978).

***NOTICE:*** *Because of renovation to the Brunswick Electric facility the May, August and November 2012 meetings for the BCHS will be held in the Teaching Auditorium at the Brunswick County Community College. The Auditorium is located in Building A, Second Floor across from the Library. There is an elevator just inside the building entrance for those in need of assistance.*

Representatives from the *Waccamaw Siouan Tribe* of Southeastern, North Carolina will be with us for the May meeting. They are one of eight state-recognized Native American tribal nations in North Carolina.

## Pictures and Documents

BCHS's project to scan, record and preserve old historical pictures and documents will continue at the next BCHS'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.

### 1940 US Federal Census Records

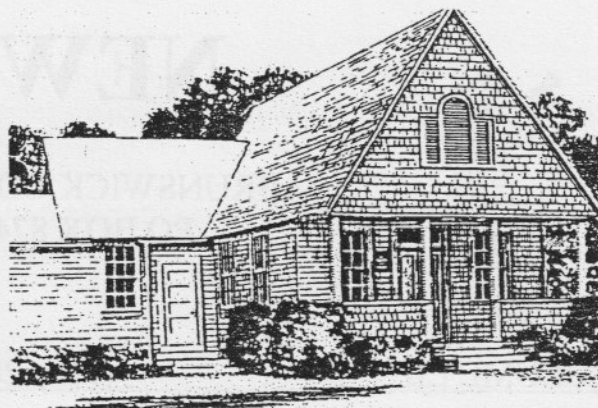
The 1940 US Federal Census Records were released on April 2, 2012. They may be accessed through various media including libraries and several web sites such as Ancestry.com.

### Hewett's in the Wilmington News

**Wilmington Weekly Star, May 17, 1884:** Old Man Thomas Hewett, who has been peddling on a small scale between this city and South Carolina nearly ever since the war, and is very well known, died last Saturday.

**Wilmington Messenger, March 9, 1888:** Mr. J.W. Hewett, member of the Board of Audit and finance of this city, has received intelligence of the death of his brother, Mr. Isaac N. Hewett, who died at Savannah, Ga., on Wednesday. The deceased was a native of Wilmington, and has for a number of years made his residence in Savannah.

**Wilmington Messenger, April 29, 1888:** Mr. George Hewett while carelessly handling a pistol yesterday morning, at the store of Mr. A. Shrier, accidentally shot himself through the left hand. He was not aware that the pistol was loaded. The wound is quite painful and Mr. Hewett has suffered a great deal with his hand.



### New Hope Presbyterian Church Winnabow, N.C.

Written by: Helen F. Taylor, Oct. 1994  
Contributed by: Glenn Kye

In the late 1870's or early 1880's a Union Sunday School was organized in this community and was conducted by Mr. Mercer, Mr. Jackson Potter and Mrs. Sarah Taylor (Mrs. Edward W.), the latter being the moving spirit, and it was she who suggested the name "New Hope" for this Union Sunday School. This group met in a school house near where Mr. J.W. Peadrick lived, located about a mile west of New Hope's present location (the property is now owned by the E. W. Maulsby family).

In a few years this Sunday School was abandoned due to lack of interest but Mrs. Taylor and Miss Betts Sellers prayed that religious work would be started again in the neighborhood.

Rev. Lowndes Walthour Curtis of South Carolina studied a S.W. P.U. at Clarksville, Tenn., the City College of Baltimore, Md, and took post-graduate studies at Princeton Theological Seminary. He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Chickasaw of the Synod of Memphis. It was in 1891 that he entered Princeton Seminary and each summer while there he did home mission work in Brunswick County, N.C. He was supported by elders B.F. Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, N.C. and Oscar Pearsall of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church also of Wilmington, N.C. Mr. Pearsall furnished a horse and buggy for the use of



The young clergyman. Rev. Curtis preached in various parts of the county and definite work was begun in the Winnabow community.

An organization was perfected on July 20, 1894. Soon the school had an enrollment of 70. The small school house which had been used by the Union Sunday School as a meeting place proved to be inadequate. Mr. Peadrick who lived nearby had erected a new house. As the newly built structure had not been portioned, Mr. Peadrick offered the use of his home as a meeting place. His offer was gladly accepted. In the following month a revival was conducted by Rev. P.H. Hoge, D.D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, N.C. There were six convert and their names were placed on the roll of the First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, N.C.

On Friday, October 19, 1894 New Hope Presbyterian Church was organized by a commission from the Wilmington Presbytery composed of Rev. P.H. Hoge, D.D., Rev. A.D. McClure, D.D., ruling elder B.F. Hall and S.N. Northrop. "New Hope" was unanimously adopted as the name of the church organization. It thus became the first Presbyterian Church in Brunswick County. Mr. Curtis' work in Brunswick County was crowned by the organization of New Hope Presbyterian Church.

John Shedd Henry and Jackson Johnson were elected elders. The new ecumenical trustees elected were Jackson Johnson, John Shedd Henry, Picket Skipper, Edward W. Taylor and J.W. Peadrick. Charter members were: Jackson Johnson, Alice S. Johnson (Mrs. Jackson), John Shedd Henry, Mary Elizabeth Henry (Mrs. J.S.), Miss Fanny Henry, Miss Lillian S. Johnson, Miss Martha P. Sullivan, Pickett Skipper, Oliver Betts Skipper, Daniel Russell Skipper, and Mrs. Ella Jane Skipper. Also the following Non-communicants: Katherine Macrae Johnson, Alice Jackson Johnson, Henry Skipper. Elliott Skipper and Ezekiel Skipper.

The first member received by the new session was Mrs. S.J. McKeithan. The first gift received by the session to help with the building of the new church was \$107.00 from Mr. Samuel Northrop and was given in memory of his son Edwin Anderson Northrop, March 4, 1867—November 24, 1894.

The first Sunday School Superintendent was Jackson Johnson. Mrs. Johnson was the first president of the Woman's Auxiliary. In 1900 Mrs. Johnson was elected the second president of the Wilmington Presbyterian Auxiliary and in 1912 was elected the first president of the N.C. Synodical. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are buried in the New Hope Presbyterian Church cemetery.

The Peter Sellers family gave land for a new church. The people in the community took a deep interest in the erection of a new church building, either giving of their time, hauling material or helping two regular carpenters, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Cleve Lewis.

On June 8, 1895 New Hope Presbyterian Church was dedicated. Rev. P.H. Hoge, D.D. delivered the sermon and his text was from Acts 20:vs. 28 "Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood".

The first wedding in the new church was that of Rev. Loundes Walthour Curtis and Miss Lillian S. Johnson. Rev. Curtis met Miss Lillian Johnson while doing mission work in Brunswick County. She taught with Miss Alderman in Wilmington and was doing mission work in both places specially among the black people on the plantation and in the Sabbath School out of which grew the New Hope Presbyterian Church. Rev. Curtis found that she was doing mission work at home while her heart was in the foreign field. They found sympathy which ripened into love culminating in their marriage in the new church on July 17, 1895. Under the Northern Board, they went out for service among the Laos. Some record of that work is found in Mrs. Curtis' book "The Laos of North Siam" which was written at Winnabow after sickness forced them back home from the foreign field. Dr. and Mrs. Curtis are buried in the New Hope Presbyterian Church cemetery.

Before the turn of the century, a two-room school house was built by the community. This school house was known as the New Hope School. It functioned as a school until 1928.

Since before 1908 an anniversary picnic has been held every year to observe the organization of the Sunday School. This picnic was held on July of each year until 1933 when it was changed to the Sunday nearest the 20th of July. In 1942 it was voted to change the date of the picnic to the Sunday nearest the 19th of October, this being the anniversary of the church organization.

In 1947 the Fellowship Hall was added to the church. On November 2, 1947 the congregation voted to purchase a building from Camp Davis, Holly Ridge, N.C. for \$550.00 to be converted to an educational building. In 1955 the building was remodeled to more adequately meet the needs of the church. The committee for this project was Mr. S.L. Purvis, Mr. John Sullivan, Mr. Charles M. Taylor and Helen F. Taylor, secretary and treasurer. A few years later the building was connect to the sanctuary.

In this our centennial year we are under the leadership of Rev. Dan Norman of Ocean Isle Beach, N.C. Our session members are: Miss Ethel Purvis, clerk, Delbert Autry, Theresa Brinson (Mrs. Phil), Bob Patterson, Glenn E. Kye, and John R. Kopp.

Our church treasurer is Tom B. Rabon, Sr., and our organist is Theresa Brinson.

Moderator for the Presbyterian Women is Theresa Brinson (Mrs. Phil) and vice-moderators are Donnie Kopp (Mrs. John R.) and Martha R. Robinson (Mrs. Tommy). Secretary is Mary E. Kye Autry (Mrs. Delbert), treasure is Lois Rabon (Mrs. Tom B.) and historian Helen F. Taylor.

President of the Presbyterian Men is Bob Patteson and vice-president is Delbert Autry.

Our newsletter is edited by Martha R. Robinson (Mrs. Tommy).

New Hope Perpetual Care Cemetery Committee is Glenn E. Kye, Delbert Autry and Edwin W. Taylor.

The centennial committee is Glenn E. Kye, chairman, Juanita S. Lewis (Mrs. Norwood), Phil Brinson and Helen F. Taylor.

The New Hope Presbyterian Church is a small church and its history has been marked by hard times and a few heated struggles. Presbytery has provided a lot of help for it over the years and I am sure there have been times when leaders in Presbytery wondered about how much they were getting in return. The effectiveness of a particular congregation is always hard to measure but from some external signs New Hope Church has done very well though it has always been small and struggling. It has touched directly hundreds of lives and indirectly thousands more.

New Hope still has trouble meeting its budget—only rarely has it had adequate pastoral leadership. Through the years we have been blessed with lay leaders who were committed to their faith and labored tirelessly for years to hold the work together. Many were and are descendants of those who were leaders in the organization of the church as well as many, many others including Mrs. Bob Lewis of Bolivia, N.C., Mr. Thomas E. Rabon, Mr. S.L. Purvis and on down to our present dedicated leadership. We are grateful for these who did so much to make this day possible and whose faithfulness is beyond measure.

It is with great humility that we take part in this centennial celebration as we consider how God can use such a small church to do so much.

H.F.T.

Transcribed as written.

*Editors note:* On December 7, 2011, New Hope Presbyterian Church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

## The War Years

Submitted by: Ouida Hewett

We may think that cooking for our families is like cooking for an army, but not when we look at just the number of sweet potatoes required to feed the Confederate troops! The following advertisement soliciting sweet potatoes appeared in the Wilmington newspaper on October 31, 1861.



Proposals are invited for the furnishing of sweet potatoes for troops, in the following quantities and for the following points:

Confederate Point 275 bushels per month  
Ft Johnson 500 bushels per month  
Wilmington 275 bushels per month

Parties proposing will state price charged per bushel, delivered in Wilmington. Deliveries made weekly. When necessary for bags, barrels or boxes to be used for transport, parties making proposal will be expected to furnish them.

Published as Historical Document in Shallotte Middle School News Letter April 17, 2000, Robert Grimes, Principal

## What's in the Water at Lockwoods Folly Inlet?

Source: From the *National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, prepared by Mark Wild-Ramsing and Wilson Angley. September 1985.

In Lockwoods Folly Inlet three wrecks have been located lying in a line across its mouth. All wrecks lie within the high energy inlet zone which are subject to abrasive tidal currents and intermittent periods of sediment accretion and erosion. Lockwoods Folly Inlet has remained in its same general location since the Civil War, however, the inlet channel has moved back and forth across the wrecks periodically. Water visibility is generally good at high tide on calm days.

### 0003LFI - *Elizabeth*

The *Elizabeth*, ex-*Atlantic*, was attempting to run in at Old Inlet, which lies 12 miles east of Lockwoods Folly Inlet, with a load of steel and salt peter. While creeping along the shore it grounded on an inlet bar shoal and being struck fast was burned by her crew to avoid capture. The *Elizabeth* was a wooden hull sidewheel vessel, 216 feet by 26 feet with a 10-foot draft and driven by a vertical beam or a walking beam, low pressure steam engine. It was built in New York and owned and operated by Charles Morgan's Southern Steamship Company.

The *Elizabeth* was seized by General Mansfield Lovel, CSA, in New Orleans in January 1862, but was later released because it was considered too inadequate of military service. Private investors converted the *Elizabeth* for blockade running and successfully made seven runs before it was lost on September 4, 1863.

Wreck 0003LFI lies on the outside of the western bar shoal and is the remains of a walking beam steamer. Only portions of the steam machinery were exposed above the bottom during archaeological investigations. The support structure or walking beam, piston rods, cylinder and steam pipes are reasonably intact, however interpretation is difficult due to the sanded condition of the wreck. No vessel measurements, nor orientation, have been determined for the vessel. Artifact dispersal at 0003LFI is roughly estimated to lie within a 150-foot diameter area centering on the steam machinery.

### 0001LFI - *Bendigo*

Only a few months after the loss of the *Elizabeth* the *Bendigo*, ex-*Milly*, while running close to shore apparently mistook the wreck for a Union blockader and attempted to pass in shore. On the morning of January 3, 1864, the *USS Fahee* discovered the *Bendigo* stranded and upon examination found it to have been unloaded through the surf and burned. The present knowledge of the *Bendigo's* construction and subsequent service as a blockade-runner is scant. The small iron sidewheel steamer was apparently built in a British shipyard in mid-1863 for Fraser, Trenholm and Company who also owned the ill-fated *Elizabeth*. The *Bendigo* grounded in its third attempt at running the blockade.

Lying on the western margin of the inlet channel, wreck 0001LFI, appears to have remained entombed in sand during most of its past depositional history. Local tradition has maintained that it is the *Bendigo*.

The vessel remains are of an iron hull, paddlewheel steamer. The bow of the wreck points in a south-east direction which puts the vessel heading toward the mouth of the Cape Fear River but angled away from shore. The bow protrudes near, or in the inlet

channel, and therefore had been subjected to tidal scour which has created a break in the hull near the forward boiler. No features were noted, nor the extent of wreck dispersal determined, for the forward portion of the wreck due to sanding at the time of investigation. Although deteriorated, the framing on the two boilers survive to preserve their construction details.

The steam machinery is in a good state of preservation. In addition, from midship to the stern, the main deck beams are still in place indicating that the majority of the hull remains intact. While the port paddlewheel shaft has broken from the wreck and is sanded over, the starboard shaft is in place and displays features such as the paddlewheel hub, lower spurs, and bracket mounts.

Probing in the stern at wreck site 0001LFI determined that the vessel extended in that direction 63 feet from the after boiler. This gives a projected vessel length of 176 feet; other Measurements produced an estimated hull beam of 20 feet 2 inches, a maximum beam of 36 feet 2 inches, and a depth of hold of 10 feet.

#### 0002LFI - USS Iron Age

The *USS Iron Age*, the third vessel to meet its fate at Lockwoods Folly Inlet, grounded on January 10, 1864, while attempting to tow the recently wrecked *Bendigo* off the western shoal. After futile attempts to get free, the *Iron Age* was set on fire causing her magazine to explode, thus completing her destruction.

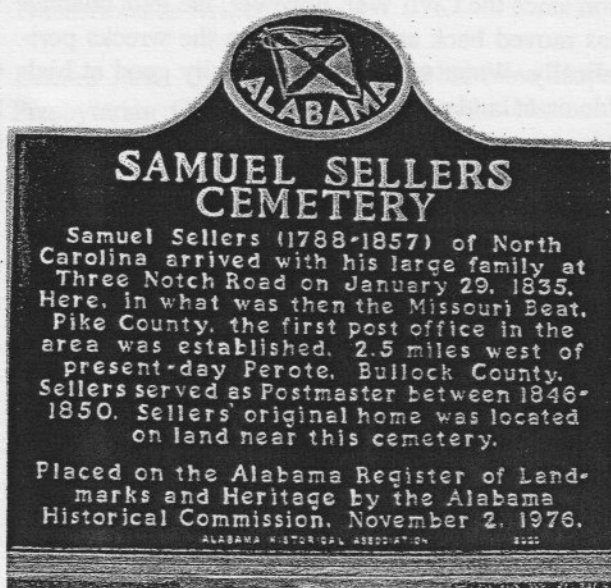
The *Iron Age* was a wood screw steamer built by Captain Nathaniel Lord Thompson at Kennebunk, Maine in 1862. She was reported to have a length of 144 feet, a beam of 25 feet, and a depth of 12 feet 6 inches. When purchased in April 1863 by the US Navy, she was outfitted with three 30-pounder Dahlgren rifles and six VIII-inch Dahlgren S.B. and commissioned in Boston on June 25, 1863. The *Iron Age* arrived on the Wilmington Station, North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, in September 1863 and participated in the destruction of the blockade-runner *Venus* and the raiding of salt works near Bear Inlet before it went down.

On the eastern side of the present channel lying in the same orientation as the *Bendigo* wreck, are the remains of a wood hull, screw steamship. No information is recorded in the forward section of the vessel due to heavy sanding. Steam machinery is heavily damaged and collapsed making interpretation difficult, however, the remains of a rectangular boiler and a single-cylinder, vertical-operating steam engine have been observed.

The midship portion of the hull is broken out near the turn of the bilge. Hard oak frames, oak exterior planking, and bilge ceiling, possible pine, are present. The hull deterioration is consistent until 20 feet from the stern where the sides gradually rise to a height of 7 feet. Here framing details are preserved, as well as remnants of copper sheathing. The four-bladed iron propeller and a wood rudder remain in place.

On the interior approximately 3 feet of sediment covered the hull and an 8-inch-diameter propeller shaft from the machinery area to the stern. A number of small artifacts were either observed or recovered including several round cannon shot and a navigational lantern. Fused coal, metal, and miscellaneous debris were indicative of a very hot fire at the time of wrecking.

The length of the vessel at 0002LFI measured approximately 110 feet from the boiler to the stern post and the beam amidship was 25 feet. The estimated dimensions of the original vessel is 150 feet.





## Samuel and Sarah Stanland Sellers Family

Bible records copied by Mrs. E. Walker Parish from the Sellers Family Bible which is in the possession of Mrs. Robert H. Faulk, Clio, Alabama. Transcribed as written.

Samuel Sellers, the son of Elisha and Mary Sellers, born April 17 in the year 1788.  
Sarah Stanland, daughter of Hugh and Sarah Stanland, born August 4, in the year 1786.

Samuel Sellers and Sarah Stanland was joined in holy wedlock July 31, 1806.  
(Editors Note: Brunswick County records indicate marriage on December 19, 1806.)

Elisha E. Sellers, son of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born August 4th, the year 1807.  
Samuel Sellers, son of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born Feb. 9th in the year 1809.  
Sarah M. Sellers, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born Nov. 2nd the year 1810.  
Calvin Sellers, son of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born May 5th in the year 1812.  
Luther Sellers, son of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born Sept. 29th in the year 1813.  
Cornelius Sellers, son of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born Feb. 17th in the year 1815.  
Hosea Pickett Sellers, son of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born April 27 the year 1816.  
Hannah Sellers, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born March 12 in the year 1818.  
Nathaniel Sellers, son of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born Sept. 8th in the year 1819.  
Gamaliel Sellers, son of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born Jan. 15th in the year 1822.  
Elizabeth F. Sellers, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born July 23rd year 1823.  
Louisa Sellers, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born May 13th in the year 1825.  
Mary H. Sellers, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born Jan. 14th in the year 1827.  
Rebecca Sellers, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born Dec. 16th the year 1828.  
Harriet C. Sellers, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Sellers, was born Sept. 24, in the year 1830.

Editors Note: Samuel Sellers, Sarah Stanland and all there children were born in Brunswick County.

**Don't forget the new location for our May, August and November meetings.**

### *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