



NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME LIII

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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 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

NOVEMBER MEETING TO BE HELD AT BEMC IN SUPPLY, NC NOVEMBER 11, 2013 @ 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the *Brunswick County Historical Society* will be held on November 11th 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 2013 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).

Program

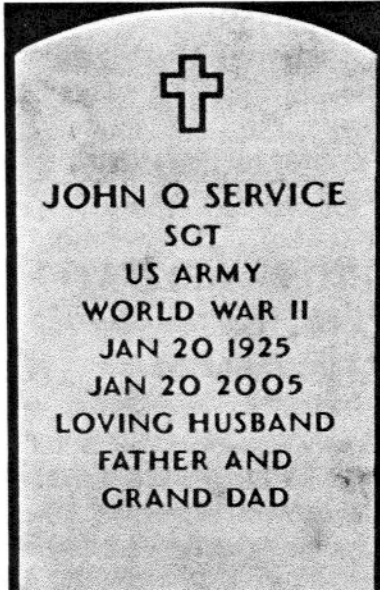
BCHS member Jim Marlowe will be our quest speaker. His topic will be "Some Aspects of the History of Western Brunswick County."

Dues

With the year coming to a close your 2014 *BCHS* dues will be payable January 1. Individual dues are still \$15.00 a year or for lifetime membership at \$150.00. See any officer or mail check to Brunswick County Historical Society, PO Box 874, Shallotte, NC 28459. Use the membership application found on page 7 for contact changes or pass along to your friends or relatives. Help us to increase our membership during the next year.

HEADSTONES, MARKERS and MEDALLIONS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a



Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death.

For eligible veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990 and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone,

VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the graves or a Medallion to be affixed to a privately purchased headstone.

Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. Bronze niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains. The style chosen must be permitted by the officials in charge of the private cemetery where it will be placed.

When burial or memorialization is in a national cemetery, state Veterans' cemetery, or military post/base cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin or authorized representative.

Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a Government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state Veteran's cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.

Note: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsi-

bility and all setting fees are at private expense.

For more information check the Veterans Affairs official website. www.cem.va.gov/hmm

History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”



Soldiers of the 353rd Infantry near a church at Stenay, Meuse in France, wait for the end of hostilities. This photo was taken at 10:58 a.m., on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice ending World War I went into effect.

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the na-

tions..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word

"Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."



President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Ad-

ministrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

LETTERS FROM CHARLES CARROLL USHER

Editors Note: Letters taken from "The House of Ushers" written by Alma Usher Barclay and Lois

Usher Adams and submitted by Grover Holden. Transcribed as written. Charles was the son of William and Elizabeth Love Usher of Duplin County, ancestors of Brunswick County Usher's.

Gaines' Mill, Hanover County, Virginia, July 2, 1863

To Mrs. Eliza M. Usher, Magnolia, N.C.

Dear Ma: I arrived here yesterday after a hot fatiguing march in a column of cavalry and artillery. The artillery accompanied us from Richmond which place we left yesterday morning and marched out 16 miles in the direction of the so called White House on the Pamunkey River where the Yankees have landed a large force, it is thought with the idea of marching on Richmond. As soon as the column halted on yesterday the orderly called to me and said he had a letter for me which had been forwarded from Bacon's Castle and it turned out to be yours of the 12th of June. You cannot imagine how glad I was to get it and before I got through reading it I was detached to go for picket duty to one of the outposts where I sat on my horse alone for five hours before I was relieved. Two miles below is where a picket was captured eight days previous and within 1 1/2 miles of where there were 45,000 Yankees in camp, so the citizens told me.

They being on the Williamsburg Road and I being one mile or two above the fork on the Train station road, I heard them fire off guns during the night. The sound of their drums was very distinct about daylight this morning when they took up their line of march for Richmond. They are nearer than I thought, on a different route, but that they will meet obstacles is certain. We are getting a considerable force here and I expect we will be fully prepared to meet them. I have passed two of the battlefields of last year where there is a pretty large number of troops now. I could write a great deal if I had time and some good materials, but my paper and pen are so bad I can hardly write at all. I am glad to hear you are all in the enjoyment of the greatest of all blessings (good health). My health has been pretty good so far considering the exposure they took us into soon after we got to Franklin and we now have to take the weather like cattle. (Several

sentences obscure. Seems to be saying: I have laid outside under a wet blanket and slept with the chiggers.)

I'll tell you something concerning our Colonel (Baker). Captain Newkirk commissioned the trial he ordered but it has not taken place yet. I understood that our captain has got a furlough and gone home. They processed us through a part of our clothes at Petersburg as we came through there.

Tell pa that stiff land suits clover, and also oats. Any of his land will produce it. The lower field will produce the best - or any of those places where he was in the habit of making wheat. The fork field in clover would be worth a thousand dollars per year. You can also tell him that I saw a horse reaper in operation yesterday. It is certainly a great improvement over the usual way. It is fixed on the principle of a steam boat wheel.

I must now stop writing. Tell pa Herbert (horse) is doing well. I've had several bounties (offers) to savor. He makes a first rate cavalry horse. Write soon and let me hear from you all. Also let me hear about Florence (mare).

Tell Ed to write to me and I will answer when I can. Love to all from your affectionate son.

C. C. Usher

Direct your letters to Richmond. A courier goes from the regiment every other day. Remember me lovingly to the family. As ever, your affectionate son.

Charlie.

P.S. Please let me hear from you soon and write whether you have a heap of rain like we do here or not. I would like also to know what your prospects are for a crop this year, and how the Nightingale is, or in other words Florence. My hopes lay chiefly in Vicksburg. As long as that holds out I think our cause is safe.

Deserters (Yankee) are coming over to us almost every day.

Forced March: Camp near Petersburg, Sunday, July 26, 1863

To Mrs. Eliza M. Usher, Magnolia, N.C.

Dear Ma: I arrived at this place yesterday evening from Mathias Point on the Potomac after the efficient (action) of our company (about 50 men) having been detached from the Regiment to accompany a Battery under the command of Colonel Lightfoot to (enemy) country on the Potomac at (Mathias Point). We made a forced march of advancing and returning making in all a march of 300 miles. And my strength and spirits are now both at a pretty low ebb.

I received your much esteemed and welcomed letter of the 12th inst. Although the glad tidings were mingled with its contents, it dispelled a portion of the gloom by which I was surrounded. Colonel Lightfoot is a very kind and humane man. But his orders were to be as expeditious as possible in consequence of which the men and horses are very much jaded and fatigued. When I last communicated to you I was in rather feeble condition but did not have another chill or fever and started in two days after to the Potomac. Although I was exposed to a good many hard rains and stood picket one night in the heavy rain on our march, but did not see a chill at all that would give me an excuse to visit home and be with (you) all once more. But alas there is no chance for me. Furloughs are out of question and the only way to get off from duty is to shirk from duty and make a false report about your horse as some have done. I could possibly get a detail to go after a horse but I can't resort to such means to get away. I notice that those who go (usually) come back without horses, and take back some horses that were (said to be) missing. I must close as I want to save half of this sheet to write Mary. Remember me kindly to pa and tell him that I am very glad to hear that his prospects for a crop are good. I sincerely hope you may all live to enjoy it in peace without being disturbed by the despicable Yankees. Tell Ed and pa both to write to me. Sincere love to all. Hoping you will remember me as an affectionate son.

C.C. Usher

P.S. If you will allow me to make a request, it is that if I should be so unfortunate as to never reach home and W.B. Green should ever pass that way, you can give him food and shelter but do not re-

ceive him as a personal friend of mine. He will give me some misfortune if I live. Mr. Green is one of the men who stopped by your house on our way up and is a bosom friend of O.I. Burns.

War Gets Hot: Howlet's Farm, near Petersburg Va., May 20, 1864

To Mrs. Eliza M. Usher, Magnolia, N.C.

My Dear Ma: I have not heard from home since I left for Richlands and I guess you have not heard from me. I will now embrace my first opportunity to let you know where I am. We are now about half way between Petersburg and Richmond, picketing on the left of General Bushrod Johnson's Brigade. We left Kinston last Sunday morning a week ago and marched to Richmond in six days. We traveled half of every night. We escorted General Beauregard from Petersburg to Richmond last Friday. Met with the Yankees at Chesterfield (The first New York Cavalry). Charged and repulsed them. We had several missing from the Regiment next morning. We do not know if they were killed or captured. We had three days fighting at Drury's Bluff. It was very severe on Monday for four hours when the Yankees were routed and it is said that the left wing of their army would have been captured if General Whiting had obeyed Beauregard's orders. AS it was, we only got 2,000 exclusive of their dead and wounded. One Brigadier (General) was in the lot. Our Squadron, Companies A and B, were assigned to duty on the field to keep the men from leaving their posts and there I saw some bad sights. It was certainly a hot place, but Beauregard is the man. He goes to the front and stays until the battle is won. There has been some fighting every day on the Point between the James and the Appomattox Rivers. They are fighting today at intervals on our right. We are getting enough to eat, but need clean clothes very bad. We have not changed since we left Kinston (N.C.). I left a part of my baggage near Kinston at Mr. John Jackson's, done up in a bundle, with D.D. Wells'- my coat, two white blankets, etc.

Florence stands it well and is mending. Remember me kindly to pa and everyone of the family and be assured that my heart is with you all. May Heaven bless and protect you is the prayer of your affectionate son.

Charlie

P.S. Direct your letters to Petersburg for the present in care of Captain McClammy, 3rd. N.C. Cavalry.

Charley Slain: Hanover Court House, Va., May 29, 1864

To Mr. William Usher, Magnolia, N.C.

Dear Sir: I regret very much having to state to you that your son Charley was killed last Friday morning (May 27, 1864) about 10 o'clock while engaged with the Yankees in a skirmish fight (sic) on foot. His body was left in the woods. His body was left in possession of the enemy on account of our advancing and driving their skirmishers within about 40 yards of their line of battle. Before we knew it, they charged us immediately after he was killed. I would have given anything in the world could we have saved his body. But an attempt to take him to the rear would have resulted in our either being killed or taken by the enemy. He displayed a great deal of coolness and done (sic) his whole duty as a soldier to the last. He was next to me on my left. Several yankees fell before us. I have no doubt but what he killed some of them. We had four men in our company wounded: James Corbett, W.E. Herring, Emmett Rochelle. The fire at the time Charley was killed was very heavy. He was shot through the head. His horse was saved. Charley was a dear, very dear companion of mine. I feel that I have lost one of my best friends. I miss him if possible more than you do, but such is the fortune of war. The best of friends must part. I haven't time to write you more for we are marching and fighting (sic) every day.

Yours respectfully,

D.D. Wells (Daniel Dulaney)

P.S. If you see any of father's family, please tell them that we are all well and that I will write as soon as I have an opportunity. I have not heard from any of them since we left N.C. Tell them to direct their letters to Northern Va., General Young's Brigade, Cavalry, 3rd N.C. Regiment, Company A, Care (of) Capt. McClammy.

If you wish any information concerning Charley's horse, I would be pleased to write you at any time. I have heard him say if he got killed he wanted his mare sent home. My respects to you and family.

Your friend, D.D.W.

MILITARY

Ideally, the military services instill character, self-discipline, workplace skills, and leadership qualities in their members. While the military as a career has become a more and more appealing option to those who are so inclined, the military tradition of our country is based on the notion of the "citizen soldier". That is, more often than not, people take time out from their civilian life to don a uniform and serve their country and then return to mainstream society when their duty is over. For a time, they put aside their personal goals and dedicate themselves to the goals of the service they have entered.

The quality of military life can differ greatly among the various branches and assignments within each branch. Accordingly, the impact on spouse and family can vary greatly. Each experience is unique.

Whether during peace time or war time, your wearing of the uniform displayed your commitment to the service of your country. Your experiences and endeavors in this regard are of special significance

to those whose freedoms you have helped preserve.

Author Unknown.

Area Events

December 14, 2013: Southport Christmas Tour of Homes, sponsored by the Southport Historical Society. Spend time in the special homes within the historical district of Southport. Time is from 2:00pm to 7:00pm and tickets may be purchased in advance for \$10.00 or the day of for \$15.00. Ticket locations are the Southport Visitor Center, Chamber of Commerce, Franklin Square Gallery and The Latimer House in Wilmington. Contact Shirley Wilson at 910-454-4327 for additional information.

December 15, 2013: An Eighteenth Century Christmas will be presented at **Brunswick Town-Fort Anderson.** Interpreters will be reenacting American colonists Christmas customs and will provide guided tours of St. Philips Anglican Church and historic Brunswick. Refreshments will be provided in the Visitor Center and the hi-light of the evening will be an authentic period candlelit service in the ruins of St. Philips Anglican Church. Hours are 1:00 PM to 5:30 PM and the candlelight service will begin at 5:PM and will conclude by 5:30PM. Call 910-371-6613 for more information

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