



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, 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 2014 - 2016 Term

President: David Holden
Vice-President: James Green
Secretary: Roberta Brady
Treasurer: Gwen Causey
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 10, 2014 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the *Brunswick County Historical Society* will be held on November 10th 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 2014 issue of the *NEWSLETTER* began the 53rd Volume. Volume I, Number 1 was printed September 1961. A complete set of the Newsletter from September 1961 to November 2014 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).

Napoleon Barefoot will be our guess speaker for the November meeting. His program will include the book "Tragedy at Montpelier the untold story of Ten Confederate Deserters from North Carolina" by Jayne E. Blair. Which includes one of his ancestors.

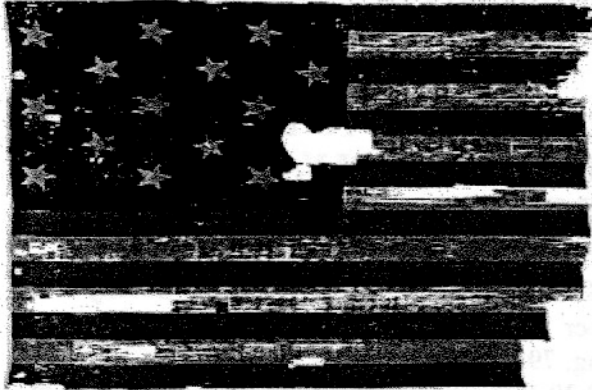
Dues

With the year coming to a close your 2015 *BCHS* dues will be payable January 1. Individual dues are still \$15.00 per 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 pass along to your friends or relatives. Help us to increase our membership during the next year.

The *Brunswick County Historical Manuscript* is now available, see page 7 for details.

“Star-Spangled Banner”

“Maryland saved the nation in 1814 at the Battle of Baltimore. The War of 1812 and the Star-Spangled Banner were pivotal in shaping our national identity and thread the tapestry of liberty for our nation,” said Maryland’s Gov. Martin O’Malley. September 2014 marks the 200th Anniversary of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner.



As the War of 1812 waged on, the citizens of Baltimore began to prepare for a possible British attack. It seemed inevitable; the British considered Baltimore a “nest of pirates” due to the privateer clippers that were built in the city’s shipyards.

During the summer of 1813, Fort McHenry’s commanding officer Major George Armistead wanted a flag that was “so large that the British will have no difficulty in seeing it from a distance.” Mary Pickersgill, an experienced Baltimore City flag maker, was contracted to create two flags – a 30 x 42’ garrison flag and a 17 x 25’ storm flag for use during inclement weather.

In seven weeks, Mary, along with her daughter Caroline, nieces Eliza and Margaret, and indentured servant Grace Wisher, made the two flags. For the larger flag, the two-foot wide stripes were made up of English wool bunting. The cotton stars were two feet wide from point to point. Since it was the practice at the time to add a stripe and star for each state as it entered the Union, there were 15 stars and stripes on the two flags (to represent the 13 original colonies and Vermont and Kentucky, the next two states to enter the union). The flags were delivered to Fort McHenry on August 19,

1813.

Following the Chesapeake Campaign and the War of 1812, the American flag developed into a dominant national symbol. The Star-Spangled Banner assumed a meaning beyond local celebration. This flag represents the broad ideals and values of the nation. Today, the American flag continues to evoke a special, patriotic feeling. In times of war, when returning from overseas, during space exploration, and at sporting events or other public gatherings, the American flag continues to represent freedom, democracy, and the intangible nature of “what it means to be an American.”

Story of the Anthem

After the British captured and burned Washington DC, they returned to their ships anchored near Benedict. They passed through the town of Upper Marlboro where a few stragglers and one deserter began plundering nearby farms. Dr. William Beanes and other American civilians seized six or seven of the stragglers and confined them to a local jail. When one escaped and informed his superiors of the arrest, a contingent of British marines returned to Upper Marlboro and arrested Beanes and the others, and held them in exchange for the release of the British prisoners. The Americans were subsequently released except Beanes, who was considered the instigator of the incident. In violation of the existing rules of war, he was placed in confinement aboard *HMS Tonnant*.

US Attorney Francis Scott Key and John Stuart Skinner, the U.S. Agent for Exchange of Prisoners, were urged to seek the release of Dr. Beanes, and boarded the *HMS Tonnant* under a flag of truce. They showed the British officials letters from wounded British soldiers who were left behind after the Battle of Bladensburg, giving testimony to the kindness and treatment given them by U.S. hands. This so moved British General Ross, who had ordered the arrest of Beanes, that he suggested to Admiral Thomas Cochrane that Beanes be released after the planned attack on Baltimore.

Beanes, Key, and Skinner had witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry from onboard the truce vessel. Key was inspired by the scene of the battle

that he composed a song that eventually became the National Anthem. Key chose the tune, "To Anacreon in Heaven" by John Stafford Smith, because it was a popular American and British melody and he had previously adapted it to other lyrics.

Key, Beanes, and Stuart were released as the British retreated, and that night Key worked on his song. Handbills were quickly printed and copies distributed to every man who was at Fort McHenry during the bombardment. Key's words were first printed on September 20, 1814, in the Baltimore Patriot and Advertiser under the title "Defence of Fort M'Henry." By the end of the year, Key's words were printed across the contry as a reminder of the American victory. In 1931, the U.S. Congress enacted legislation that made "The Star-Spangled Banner" the official Nation Anthem.

Americans took tremendous pride in their victory over the British at the Battle for Baltimore. Key's "The Star-Spangled Banner" was set to music and rapidly circulated. The flag and the song - which would later become the National Anthem - came to symbolize the nation. They have retained their iconic status through the ongoing evolution of the country and remain important national symbols in the United States and the rest of the world. It was as a result of the Chesapeake Campaign that, for the first time, many Americans began to think about what it meant to be an American. After the Battle for Baltimore, Americans had a moment to take stock and recognize that this significant victory and the survival of the Republic were worth celebrating.

Source: From the **Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement**, National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, Northeast Region, March 2004.

Bicentennial of the Star-Spangled Banner

Presentation by Jim McKee, September 9th at the Garrison Lawn in Southport. Reprinted with Jim McKee's permission.

Ladies and gentlemen, I cannot begin to tell you what an honor it is for me to address you today, on the eve of the bicentennial of what can be considered our national identity.

The Second Continental Congress passed the Flag Resolution of 1777 on June 14 of that year: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing the new constellation." The Flag Act of 1794 increased the number of stars and stripes from 13 to 15 to reflect the entry of two new states (Vermont & Kentucky). This would be the only national flag not to have 13 stripes. It went into effect on May 1, 1795.

By September 1814 America's future existence looked bleak. Washington had been burned and the British were at the gates of Baltimore. As the British navy began to bombard Fort McHenry, Francis Scott Key, a Washington attorney, watched from a number of British ships. Key was among the enemy to negotiate an exchange of prisoners. His mission was a success, but Key was detained because he had heard details of the British plan of attack.

On the eve of war with Great Britain, North Carolina, and the nation, were woefully unprepared for the coming conflict. In mid-July 1812 two thousand muskets and bayonets arrived at Fort Johnston from Washington, DC. In addition to the small arms, attempts were made to acquire more artillery for the fort. By December two brass 6-pounders were received at the fort. The overall defense of the Cape Fear was to include the use of a flotilla of four gunboats under the command of Thomas N. Gautier. Very quickly Gautier was disappointed when his two best vessels were sent to Beaufort and Georgia. By early 1813 his remaining boats were ordered to be laid up in Wilmington and their crews discharged.

In spring 1812 the river pilots in Smithville, Wilmington, & the lower Cape Fear formed themselves into a militia unit known as the "Sea Fencibles" in order to be able to serve either on land or on any vessels available. There is some evidence that points that the Cape Fear Sea Fencibles may

have been organized prior to Congress' July 26, 1813 Act to form a "Corps of Sea Fencibles".

In July 1812 North Carolina Governor William Hawkins called up eight companies of militia for the defense of the North Carolina coast. Four of these companies from Bladen, Brunswick, Duplin and New Hanover counties were sent to Fort Johnston. The company commanders were as follows:

Brunswick:	2nd Lt. John Sullivan
Bladen:	Capt. John Nicholson
Duplin:	Capt. Bryan Glisson
New Hanover:	Capt. John Mitchell

The militia was placed under the command of Maj. John Alexander Lillington and was to defend the area until they were to be relieved by regular units of the United States Army.

The militia that was stationed at Ft. Johnston were billeted in temporary wooden barracks located at Deep Water Point, about a half mile north of the fort. These militia were lacking in everything from medicine to shelter. Many did not even have a blanket. They were able to erect a number of frame structures by the time winter set in. Fortunately they did not have to remain long at the site because they were replaced by regulars from the newly formed 10th US Regiment in December.

In May 1813 the 10th was replaced by a 78 man battery from the US Artillery under the command of Capt. William Wilson. Wilson took it upon himself to make improvements to the fort. Wilson's improvements included replacing the tempory fence erected in 1804 with a more "substantial fence". He also "caused to be built a commodious wooden house" on the NE corner of the fort for use as an enlisted men's barrack.

In June 1814 three British ships patrolled off the mouth of the Cape fear and captured three pilots. Also in 1814 there were a couple of British attempts to land small patrols in the area and attempts to capture salt works and cattle.

It was fortunate that the British never made an attempt ot enter the Cape Fear. It is doubtful that Fort Johnston would have withstood an aggressive attack by water and almost certain that an attack by

land would have taken the fort, albeit with difficulty. The reason was that the town of Smithville had grown up around the fort so close that nay attacking force that entered the town would be able to use the surrounding buildings as cover during their assault.

Now, back to Baltimore and Frances Scott Key:

Key began his poem on the back of a letter he had in his pocket. After his release on Sept. 16 he returned to Baltimore and completed the poem at the Indian Queen Hotel. He titled his poem "Defense of Fort M'Henry." The poem was later put to music. John Stafford Smith wrote the original tune, "The Anacreontic Song" (Editors Note: also known as "To Anacreon in Heaven") possible in the mid 1760's. It was the official song of the Anacreontic Society, an 18th century gentlemen's club of amateur musicians in London. Frances Scott Key wrote "Defense of Fort M'Henry" with this tune in his mind. It was first sung in October 1814 by Ferdinand Durang at Capt. McCauley's Tavern. It was designated the National Anthem on March 3, 1931.

Francis Scott Key had no intention of writing what would become our national anthem when he went on his mission of mercy. But as we all know, that is what he did when he saw, "*by the dawn's early light,*" the fort's immense and battered garrison flag still flying "*o'er the ramparts.*" During these past 200 years "*that Star-Spangled Banner*" still waves, albeit with 13 stripes and 50 stars, *O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*"

Where was Francis Scott Key:

During the Sept. 13-14 bombardment, Key was on board the 74-gun ship-of-the-line *HMS Minden*. (Editors note: Conflicting report places Key aboard the *HMS Tonnant*) During the night he witnessed the bombardment and could see Fort McHenry's smaller storm flag flying, but after the bombardment he had no idea what flag would be flying over Fort McHenry

Rockets Red Glare, Bombs Bursting in Air:

HMS Erebus was serving as a rocket ship with the Royal Navy. She fired the Congreve Rockets at

Fort McHenry, which provided the "*Rockets Red Glare.*" *HMS Meteor* was a bomb vessel that also participated in the attack and provided a number of the "*Bombs bursting in Air.*"...

60th Anniversary of Hurricane Hazel

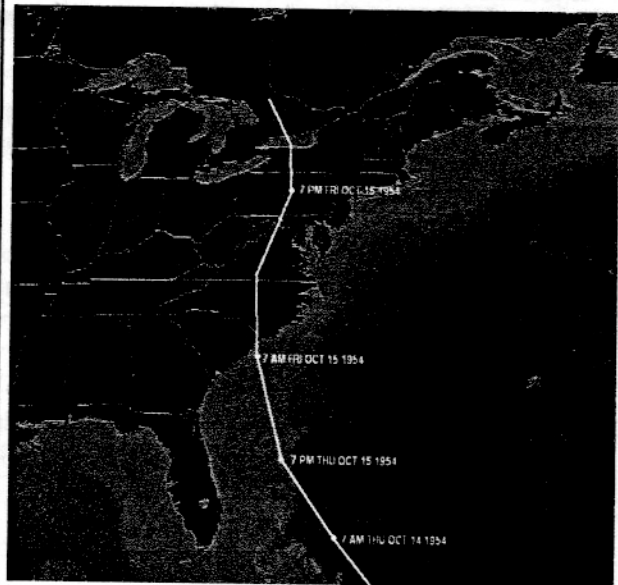
In terms of destruction, it is hard to find a hurricane in the Carolina's history to match Hazel. On October 15, 1954 the center of this legendary hurricane slammed ashore near the NC/SC state line causing a level of devastation virtually unmatched in the local historic records.

Hazel became a tropical storm just east of the southern Windward Islands on October 5th. She moved west and strengthened into a category 3 hurricane only 200 miles north of Caracas, Venezuela on October 7th, later moving across the central Caribbean Sea with 130 mph winds. Hazel abruptly turned north and crossed western Haiti on October 12th as a category 3 hurricane, then accelerated northward toward the Carolinas as a strong upper level trough developed across the eastern portion of North America. Hazel's rapid forward speed allowed the storm to maintain very strong winds a great distance inland. Wind gusts in Fayetteville, NC reached 110 mph, with 90 mph gusts recorded in Raleigh. Hazel seamlessly transitioned from a hurricane into a powerful non-tropical low, maintaining much of its wind energy while transitioning its energy source from warm ocean water to horizontal temperature contrasts. Damaging winds occurred all the way into the Northeast where 90 mph gusts were still occurring in New York State.

The storm surge just east of the eye along portions of the Brunswick County coast reached 18 feet, highest near Calabash and Holden Beach. In Myrtle Beach upwards of 80 percent of the first row of beach structures were destroyed and wind gusts were measured at 102 mph. In the Oak Island community of Long Beach 98 percent of beach structures did not survive the storm, and the few that did survived were heavily damaged. Grass-covered sand dunes 10 to 20 feet high simply disappeared during the storm on Oak Island, a testament to the power of the storm surge. A newspaper report says in Wrightsville Beach "most of the cottages along the water front had been washed away." Near Wil-

ilmington the same newspaper report says "three freighters has broken loose from their moorings and were moving down the Cape Fear River." Hazel is responsible for the highest flood stage ever recorded on the Cape Fear River at downtown Wilmington, 8.15 feet above mean lower low water. (MLLW) Based on recent surveys near the Cape Fear River, Hazel likely flooded Water Street to a depth of nearly three feet.

Because Hazel was a fast moving storm rainfall in Southeastern North Carolina was not a real issue although the barometric pressure reading of 28.69 inches of mercury was the sixth lowest pressure in history. The Local Climatological Data publication for Wilmington states that a boat anchored near Little River, SC "in the eye" recorded a pressure of 27.70 inches. The maximum wind gust measured in Wilmington was 98 mph at 10:42 a.m. on October 15th, with a 5-minute average wind speed of 62 mph. In Myrtle Beach the barometric pressure bottomed out at 28.47 inches. Wind gust estimates of 125 to 150 mph were received along the Brunswick County coast.



Hazel caused 19 deaths across North Carolina with 12 here in Brunswick County. Included are: Walter and Virginia Armfield, Shelton W. Bullard, Jonathan and Louise Cox, David Milton Glass, Sallie Hasper, Sherman and Madaline Register and their son Sherman Lynn Register, Dougald Birtrem Todd, Sr., and William Henry West.

**200th Anniversary Commemoration and Star-Spangled Banner Living Flag
Day 2014**

**By the Governor of the State of North Carolina
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, September 14, 2014, marks the 200th anniversary of the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key, a defining moment in the War of 1812, America's second and final war for independence; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 1931, Key's immortal words were officially declared the National Anthem of the United States of America by House Resolution #14; and

WHEREAS, it was the sight of the large 30 x 42-foot Star-Spangled Banner flag waving over Fort McHenry that inspired Francis Scott Key to compose the words of that Anthem; and

WHEREAS, the National Anthem and the American flag have evolved to symbolize the spirit and resolve of the American people over the last 200 years; and

WHEREAS, one hundred years ago, on September 12, 1914, over 6,500 Baltimore citizens and schoolchildren donned red, white and blue silk capes and created what they termed "The Human Flag" on the grounds of Fort McHenry in honor of the centennial anniversary of the wiring of "The Star-Spangled Banner," and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2014, the 200th anniversary of the writing of the National Anthem, and the American flag, will be commemorated by recreating a larger living fifteen star, fifteen stripe flag on the grounds of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, and event that will be broadcast nationwide to schools;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Pat McCrory, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby declare September 9, 2014, "**200th Anniversary Commemoration and Star-Spangled Banner Living Flag Day**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this first day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen, and of the independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.



PAT McCORRY
Governor

Bishop Francis Asbury

Bishop Francis Asbury travelled across Eagles Island twice during his missionary work in North Carolina, in 1785 and again in 1796.

In his notes he wrote:

Saturday, March 19, 1785: "After preaching at Town Creek, I rode in the evening to Wilmington, night came on before we reached there, and from the badness of the causeway I ran some risk;..."

Friday, December 23, 1796: "We had an excessively cold ride through heavy sands to Wilmington, when we came to the town wharf there was neither flat nor ferry; the causeway was under improvement; the only expedient therefore that remained was to cross at Negro Head..." (note: Negro Head Road terminated at Point Peter, opposite Wilmington.)

Welcome New Members

The BCCHS gained three new members this year thru October. A big welcome to **Margaret Shelton, Sharon Davis and Christy Judah**. Let us work together to increase our membership even more in the coming year.

Area Events

November 14 and 15, 2014: **Moore Creek National Battlefield Candlelight Tour**. New program, including new starting point and several new stops. Reservations are required. Call the visitor center, 910-283-5591. Starting time is 6:00 pm and leave every 15 minutes. Departs from Patriots Hall. Cost of admission is \$3.00 for adults and free for children 12 and under.

Nov. 15, 2014: Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. **"The Wall that Stings: The Whitworth Battery"**. This tour is exclusively for the **"Friends of Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson"**. You may join anytime or on the day of the tour.

Did any of your ancestors fight at **Fort Fisher**? If so the staff of Fort Fisher is very interested in your ancestor's whether they wore Union Blue or Confederate Gray. Contact Fort Fisher, 1610 Fort Fisher Blvd. S, Kure Beach, NC 28449. Note: If you are uncertain about your ancestor's military service, the staff will be happy to assist with research from their library and online resources. Check their web site at.

www.friendsoffortfisher.com

Editors Note: **The Historic Architecture of Brunswick County, North Carolina** is expected to be available in early November. There will be order forms at the BCCHS meeting. Cost \$40.00.

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