



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

Notice: Change of venue for the May meeting. We will meet at the BCCC teaching auditorium located in Building A, second floor. This will be for the May meeting only.

MAY MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE BCCC Bolivia, NC MAY 11, 2015 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the *Brunswick County Historical Society* will be held on May 11th 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 2015 issue of the *NEWSLETTER* began the 56th Volume. Volume I, Number 1 was printed September 1961. A complete set of the Newsletter from September 1961 to May 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).

Robin Triplett

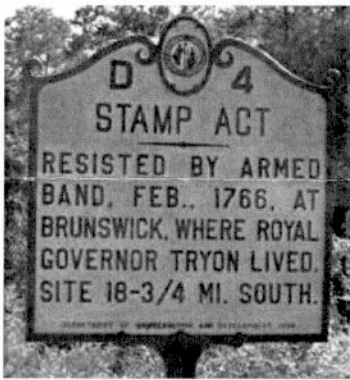
Robin Triplett will be the speaker for our May meeting. Robin is a retired history teacher from Wilmington. She grew up in Wilmington and loves teaching U.S. and Cape Fear History. Robin gives walking tours of downtown Wilmington and Oakdale Cemetery and loves to share her passion for the Cape Fear area rich history. Bring a friend and join us for this very informative local area history lesson.

Happy Mothers Day

History Lesson in 22 Words

In 1935 the General Assembly authorized the establishment of the North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program (Public Laws, Chapter 197). From that time forward, the program has been administered as a cooperative venture among state agencies. It is presently the joint responsibility of the Research Branch, Office of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources, and the Traffic Engineering Branch, Division of Highways, Department of Transportation. The North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program is one of the oldest such programs in continuous operation in the United States..

Prior to 1935 the North Carolina Historical Commission (established in 1903) and private organizations (such as the Daughters of the American Revolution)



sponsored a small number of historical markers and plaques. The state program, modeled after one begun in Virginia in 1926, was an effort to standardize the practice of marking sites of statewide historical significance. The silver and black markers have become a familiar part of the state's landscape since the first one was put in place in Granville County on January 10, 1936. To date over 1,400 state markers have been erected. At least one stands in every county.

For young people the markers may spark a curiosity that leads to further study of and appreciation for the historical development of the region. For visitors the signs may be their only exposure to the history of the Tar Heel State. For native North Carolinians the presence of a state marker in their community can be a source of pride, a signal that an event of historical significance took place close to home. The Department of Cultural Resources and the Department of Transportation remain committed to the program in its second half-century.

Criteria

The state marker program cannot mark all historic places in North Carolina. To do so would be impractical and beyond the scope of the program. Aside from the cost involved an unchecked proliferation of historical markers would create an obstruction to traffic flow and lessen the distinction of those signs designating deserving sites.

Subjects of primarily local or regional, as opposed to statewide, significance are not eligible for state markers. An individual cannot be considered until twenty-five years, or roughly a generation, after his or her death. Structures are not marked for architectural value. Rather, an individual or historic event associated with a site is more likely to receive consideration.

Architecturally significant buildings may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, administered by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Office of Archives and History.

Over the years the Marker Advisory Committee has devised the following set of criteria, under which the program presently operates:

1: All markers are authorized by the North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Advisory Committee, and no state highway historical marker may be erected under the program without the approval of the committee.

2: All markers designate places or persons of statewide significance. No markers will be approved for subjects of purely local or regional importance.

3: All marker inscriptions are drafted or approved by the advisory committee. In drafting the inscriptions the committee does not editorialize or pass judgment; only straightforward, undisputed historical facts are set forth. Words such as "great," "outstanding," "important," will not be included in marker inscriptions. The space limitations of the standard marker require that concise statements be used. The heading or title consists of one or two lines of approximately sixteen letters or spaces to the line; the text of the inscription is usually not

twenty-three letters and spaces each. The advisory committee will decide on the title and length of the inscription.

4: No individual can be marked prior to a waiting period of twenty-five years after death. Members of the United States Congress are not marked automatically even after the waiting period. Many have been marked; however, in addition to serving in Congress, they must have served with distinction elsewhere.

5: Churches usually are not marked in the Coastal Plains unless the congregation was established prior to the American Revolution (1776). The congregations of churches in the Piedmont must have been formed before 1800 and in the mountain region before 1820. The age of a church body alone does not mean that the committee will approve a marker. Other evidence of its significance must be presented, such as notable ministers, important events, and the age and architectural importance of the church building. The same criteria are applicable to brush arbors and religious campgrounds. Similar criteria are applied to schools and academies.

6: As a general rule markers for cemeteries are not approved by the committee. The rare exceptions are those in which a number of persons of unusual significance are buried, such as the Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh, where seven former governors are interred.

7: The committee usually does not mark the sites of former county seats or abandoned (but extant) courthouses. Unless there is added importance, the fact that a building once served as a county courthouse is of local and not statewide significance. This rule applies also to former jail sites, jails, post offices, and similar structures.

8: Stagecoach roads, king's highways, stagecoach stops, plank roads, old brick roads, baggage roads, Indian trails, and most bridges and ferries usually will not be approved for marking. The earliest and most important ones have been marked previously.

9: Every spot visited by George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, Nathanael Greene, Lord

Cornwallis, William T. Sherman, George Stoneman, Francis Asbury, or Griffith Rutherford is not marked automatically.

10: The committee will not single out individuals to mark when many persons have shared equally in an event of historical importance.

11: As a general rule when the birthplace or gravesite of an individual has been marked, that individual will not be marked with a second marker. Usually when a person is cited on a marker (as Shubael Stearns on Sandy Creek Baptist Church marker, K-5), no marker will be erected to him individually. The committee reserves the right to decide whether or not a second marker is merited.

12: No structure, whether a house or public building, will be marked *merely* to preserve it. Sites where buildings once stood prior to their removal to another location will not be marked as a general rule.

13: The state marker program does not mark towns or their dates of incorporation. The naming of a town on any marker plaque is coincidental and is not to be construed as the reason for marker approval.

14: Marker requests will be rejected when it is impossible to authenticate or verify the alleged information to the satisfaction of the committee. If there is conflicting evidence, the committee will make the decision. Unless there is sufficient documentary evidence to establish authenticity without question, no "firsts" will be marked. The committee will decide what evidence is acceptable and sufficient.

15: Most colleges and universities of historical significance have been or will be marked.

16: No marker will be approved for individual sites within a historical complex which has its own marker system.

The N.C. Highway Historical Marker Program established in 1935 is among the first of its kind and ensures that every county in our state has a roadside history lesson.

The paradox is that these signs, conceived to provide answers, really just spawn questions. At times it may take several minutes to read just 22 words. Another quandary is why a marker may be quite some distance from the actual historical site. This may seem odd but the Department of Transportation restricts the placement of historical markers to numbered state or federal highways. Interstates, restricted access routes, city maintained streets and "SR"'s are not eligible. Markers must not be allowed to create an unreasonable road hazard. The truth is that North Carolina places markers as close to a site as it can, but regulations may well impede precision.

History-minded citizens propose most of the topics and the Marker Advisory Committee consider the merits of each and approve around 12 topics a year to be written up in about 22 words. To be precise the message must be displayed in five or six lines of 20 to 25 characters per line. The taxpayers of N.C. pay \$1,600 per sign.

It is important to note that as new signs appear some of the old ones are retired. Per Michael Hill, (supervisor of the Historical Research Office in Raleigh) "history is changeable, what is important at one point may not be considered important at another point." The committee has terminated markers for any number of reasons.

Wherever you reside in North Carolina, you're not far from one of more than 1500 markers including approximately 28 markers in Brunswick County.

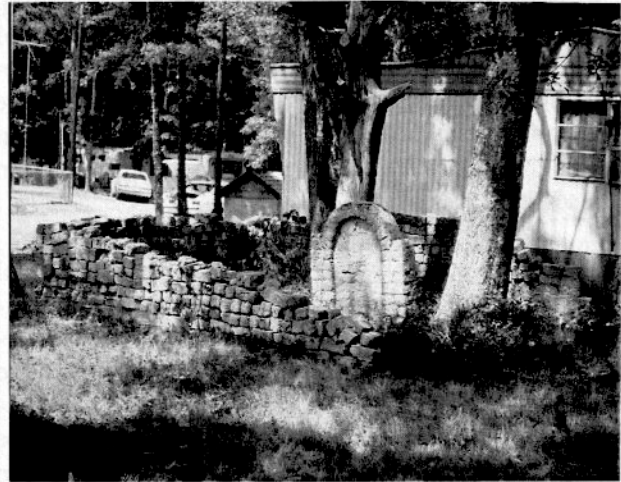
I Remember

By Ouida Hewett
January 2015

I remember visiting Uncle Dave and Aunt Mary Hewett Fulford's home with my Aunt Jane Hewett during the early 40's. While there we went to Uncle Dave's old-field to gather palm fronds for brooms and brushes for Aunt Jane's home and yard.

On the way or path to the field we passed or encountered the Hewitt/Hewett Family Cemetery. As I remember I was fascinated with the beautiful

tombstones and gravesites there. At that time there were lots of grave markers and graves in the cemetery but the Joseph Hewitt, Sr. one stood out among all the others. It was beautiful.



Picture taken July 1984

The headstone had his epitaph, scripture and name on a very well preserved and hand made stone sitting upright in the brick enclosure. The stone for Hannah Leonard Hewitt, wife of Joseph had her stone with name, birth and death date and scripture. The third stone was smaller and had Dorcus Fulford on the same. At the right or west of the mausoleum/brick enclosure were two very distinguished stones. One read HEMINGWAY. Underneath was Mary Holden Hewitt Hemingway wife of Joseph Hewett and Thomas Hemingway. The second head stone read Joseph Hewitt, Jr., scripture, birth and death dates. They were all very white/clean at that time.

As I grew older and later visited the gravesite, vandals had partially destroyed the graves with markers and the very distinguished gravestones also.

I volunteered with the Canine Rescue Dogs and Christy Judah to search and rescue the graves in the cemetery. We have documented over 26 gravesites there. This is filed with Brunswick County. I hold the statement that "Joseph Hewitt Sr., Hannah Leonard Hewitt, Dorcus Fulford, Joseph Hewitt, Jr. and Mary Holden Hewitt Hemingway are buried in the gravesite and they deserve honor and recognition by their descendants as they seem fit to do so by placing a permanent marker at the site and being

allowed the proper recognition that the Hewitt/Hewett family deserves.

Hewitt and Hewett mean the same family members.

Ouida Hewett

Daughter of Oran Gaston Hewett

Granddaughter of James Walker Hewett

GGranddaughter of James Dennis Hewett, Jr.

GGGranddaughter of James Dennis Hewett, Sr.

GGGGranddaughter of Jacob Hewett

GGGGGranddaughter of Uriah Hewett

GGGGGGranddaughter of Joseph Hewett Sr.

Editors Note: This cemetery is located on Kinston St. in Holiday Haven off of Old Ferry Rd. in the Holden Beach area of Brunswick County. Over the years, time, neglect, and vandals have destroyed this beautiful plot. A committee has been working toward the restoration but has seen many roadblocks with both the county and land owners. Anyone with further information (i.e. Pictures or personal accounts) concerning this cemetery please get in touch with me. My email address is located on the back page of the Newsletter.

History of Memorial Day

Reprinted from the US Department of Veterans Affairs

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington

officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local Observances Claim To Be First: Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today, cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well as Richmond, Va. The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, Ill., cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

Official Birthplace Declared: In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community-wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have

died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

Some States Have Confederate Observances: Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday of April, Alabama on the fourth Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it on May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

Gen. Logan's order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 "with the choicest flowers of springtime" urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's

and too feeble to begin over again. The flames then jumped to the store of Messrs E Legg & Schupp, also owned by Mrs Everett. The flames spread to the store owned by John Brown and occupied by Prioleau & Company, then proceeded across the street to the dwelling of Mrs Lockwood, occupied by a Mrs Ellis, thence to the residence of Philip Prioleau, a very fine residence, and it was totally destroyed. The residence of Dr W G Curtis, a duplicate of Mr Prioleau, caught fire next, and the fire burned fiercer than ever,

observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave — a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed

loved ones.

The origins of special services to honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War over 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in the nation's wars: "Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men."

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: "It's a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day."

Smithville Fire

From an unnamed paper source:

Transcribed as written.

15 Jan 1869 - A terrible fire struck Smithville. The bells of the vessels in the harbor rang the alarm, and troops from the garrison and sailors from the vessels aided the citizens in the fight to subdue the flames. The fire began in the kitchen of Dr. S. D. Thurston, who lived in a rented double-tenement house belonging to Mrs. E. A. Everett. It soon spread to the residence which was destroyed. The fire then spread to the residence and store of Mark Reynolds, an old man of 68, who lost everything

Reynolds, an old may of 68, who lost everything and too feeble to begin over again. The fames then jumped to the store of Messrs. E. Legg & Schupp, also owned by Mrs. Everett. The flames spread to the store owned by John Brown and occupied by Prioleau & Company, then proceeded across the street to the dwelling of Mrs. Lockwood, occupied by a Mrs. Ellis, thence to the residence of Philip Prioleau, a very fine residence, and it was totally destroyed. The residence of Dr. W. G. Curtis, a duplicate of Mr. Prioleau, caught fire next, and the fire burned fiercer than ever, burning the garrison fence nearby. Citizens were busy covering neighboring buildings with wet blankets and buckets of water. The excitement was intense. The fire began at 4:30 a.m. and about 10:00 a.m. the fire had ceased. Five dwellings and three stores were totally destroyed.

During the fire Mrs. Stuart and the wife of Captain Piper found some looting going on and chased the culprits away.

A sailor from the revenue cutter reported that he saw some persons under Dr. Thurston's kitchen with a light, and in 30 minutes the fire broke out. The acts of incendiary were suspected earlier. A citizen of Smithville later wrote: "God grant we may soon receive security for property in small villages."

Plantation for Sale or Lease

Wilmington Gazette, May 5, 1804
Transcribed as written.

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 contain's seven Bedrooms and one Dining room above; a Hall and Parlour, below with four fire-places, Stables and every other necessary out building. 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.

Upcoming Events

June 10, 2015: Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table. The next meeting will be at 7pm, June 10th at the St. Johns Episcopal Church in Wilmington. The speaker will be Christy Judah speaking on "The Colonial Slave Life and Search Dogs".

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