



NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME LVII

FEBRUARY 2016

NUMBER 1

Organized June 21, 1956

MISSION STATEMENT

To collect, preserve, study, evaluate and publicize the history of Brunswick County, NC. To devote meetings to presentation of materials about Brunswick County and the Lower Cape Fear through lectures, slides, and discussion. To publish a newsletter which contains news of the Society's activities, research papers and articles that pertain to genealogy.

Society Officers For the 2016 & 2017 Term

President:

Vice-President:

Secretary: Roberta Brady

Treasurer: Bob Armour

Directors: James Robinson

Jim Marlowe

Dave Lewis

Newsletter Editor: Dave Lewis

BCHS Website

www.bchs1764.org

Webmaster: Jimmy Green

FEBRUARY MEETING TO BE HELD AT BEMC IN SUPPLY, NC FEBRUARY 8, 2016 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the *Brunswick County Historical Society* will be held on Monday, February 8 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 2016 issue of the *NEWSLETTER* began the 57th Volume. Volume I, Number 1 was printed September 1961. A complete set of the Newsletter from September 1961 to November 2015 can be found in the Wilson Library at UNC-Chapel Hill, NC and at the New Hanover County Public Library North Carolina Room in Wilmington, NC. There were no publications of Volume 17, #3 & 4 (1977) and Volume 18, #1 (1978).

Dues

DUES are now payable unless you are a **Life Member**. The annual dues are \$15.00 for an active member or \$150.00 to become a Life Member. Checks may be mailed to the **BCHS** in care of Bob Armour or bring check or cash to the February meeting. Use the membership application found on page 7 for contact changes. Make checks payable to the **Brunswick County Historical Society**.

BCHS Officers

New officers for the BCHS were elected at the November meeting. Bob Armour was elected to the Treasurer position replacing Gwen Causey and James Robinson will replace Don Hickman as a Director. As of now the President and Vice President positions are open. Roberta Brady will remain as Secretary, Jim Marlowe and Dave Lewis will remain as Directors.

By Law Proposed Changes

Proposed changes to BCHS Bylaws was presented for inclusion into the minutes at the November 09, 2015 meeting for consideration of being voted on at the February 2016 meeting in accordance with Article VII Section 1.

1 & 2. The purpose is to more efficiently align duties of Secretary and Treasurer in line with best practices of organizational functions of responsibilities.

3. Section (3) rewrite is just rewording of existing statement for better statement structure. Life membership is already defined in Section(2).

4. Add Section (4) to outline procedural guidance in dealing with the issue of non-payment of dues that is not currently addressed.

5. Original Section (4) renumbered as Section(5) due to an added Section(4).

6. Article VII, Section 1: Delete: (1) "in writing" from fourth line. (2) Delete last sentence. Change "two-thirds" to "majority".

SECRETARY: (As written)

Shall keep the membership rolls of BCHS. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the general membership. Also shall conduct correspondence for BCHS and perform such other duties as are ordinarily included in this office. The Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the publicity committee.

(1) CHANGE TO:

Shall maintain the membership rolls of BCHS. Shall collect all money and give to the Treasurer, taking a receipt for same. Shall keep proper record of the proceeding of BCHS meetings and those of

the Board of Directors. Shall conduct the correspondence for BCHS unless otherwise stipulated elsewhere in the bylaws and perform such other duties as are ordinarily included in this office. The Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the publicity committee.

TREASURER: (As written)

Shall collect membership dues and shall have general charge of all financial records of BCHS. The Treasurer shall deposit all monies of all receipts and disbursements. The Treasurer shall give an annual report at the November meeting and at such other times as the President or Board of Directors may direct or as deemed advisable.

(2) CHANGE TO:

Shall receive all money from the Secretary and give proper receipt therefore. Shall maintain a record of all deposits and disbursements. Shall disburse or transfer the funds received only with the consent of the President duly attested by the Secretary. Shall give an annual report at the November meeting and at such other times as the President or Board of Directors may direct or as deemed advisable.

SECTION 3: (As written)

Memberships are annual, except for Life Memberships, and will expire on January 1.

(3) SECTION 3: Rewrite to state:

Annual membership dues shall be due and payable annually in advance on or before January first each year.

(4) NEW - ADD: SECTION 4: Non-payment of Dues:

Any member failing to pay dues on or before February first each year shall be deemed delinquent. On or before February 15 each year, the Secretary shall notify each member whose dues are not paid in full to remind them of their delinquent status. The Secretary will report at the May meeting members who have not responded with proper payment and a majority vote by members present will be taken to remove identified members from the active roles for non-payment of dues. The Secretary shall, within 15 days, notify each member of their being moved to an inactive status due

to nonpayment of dues. The full amount owed shall be paid prior to re-instatement to active status. This removal from active status results in the loss of all rights, privileges, and benefits of BCHS, including delivery of the Newsletter until such time as the membership is restored to active status.

(5) Renumber original Section (4) to Section (5).

Article VII: Ratification and Amendments (As written):

Section 1: These ByLaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at a duly constituted meeting of the BCHS provided: first, said amendment shall have been proposed at the previous meeting of the BCHS; and second, all members of the BCHS shall have been notified in writing that such action shall be before the BCHS. The vote shall be by secret ballot.

(6) Delete: (1) *"in writing"* from Section 1, fourth line and (2) last sentence.
Change: two-thirds to *"majority"*.

Rewrite as:

These ByLaws may be amended by a majority vote of members present at a duly constituted meeting of the BCHS, provided: first, said amendment shall have been proposed at the previous meeting of the BCHS; and second, all members of the BCHS shall have been notified that such action shall be before the BCHS.

Changes to be effective immediately following approval of changes.

Editors Note: Members in good standing must be in attendance to vote on these matters.

Piedmont Airlines "Flies the Blue Skies"

By Walter R. Turner

Source: Tar Heel Junior Historian Association, NC Museum of History

Tom Davis was excited. Wearing a gray suit but no overcoat for the chilly morning, he greeted everyone in the crowd by name. He had worked years

for this moment.

The final call came over the loudspeaker: "Ladies and gentlemen, Piedmont Airlines Flight No. 41 is now boarding at Gate 1 for Pinehurst, Charlotte, Asheville, Tri-Cities, Lexington, and Cincinnati."



It was 7:00 A.M. on February 20, 1948, at the Wilmington, North Carolina, airport and Davis, not yet thirty years old, was starting Piedmont Airlines with 250 employees and three used DC-3 airplanes. Another route connected Morehead City (during the summers), New Bern, Goldsboro, Raleigh-Durham, Greensboro-High Point, and Winston-Salem and extended to Louisville, Kentucky. The third route started that year was Norfolk, Virginia, to Cincinnati, Ohio. Crew bases—which included pilots, pursers (male flight attendants), and maintenance workers—were established in Winston-Salem, Wilmington, and Norfolk. Within ten years, Piedmont had expanded to Hickory, Kinston, Jacksonville, Rocky Mount, and Elizabeth City.

Tom Davis earned loyalty from his workers. With his wonderful memory for names, Davis organized social gatherings for the employees and their families and listened to their concerns and suggestions. "He loved his people, and they loved him," recalled Bill Barber, a retired vice president with Piedmont.

In time, Piedmont expanded to new cities, including Washington, D.C. The airline made a profit each year; nevertheless, it was struggling financially.

In 1962 Piedmont was granted route extensions to Atlanta, Georgia, and other points that increased

the company's flight mileage by 50 percent. The key advantage of the expansion was having connecting flights to "hubs" of the larger airlines Delta and Eastern in Atlanta. (An airline establishes a hub by creating flights to several cities from the same airport and offering convenient connecting flights to passengers.) Piedmont could also offer more flights to North Carolina's growing military bases, including Fort Bragg at Fayetteville, Camp Lejeune at Jacksonville, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base at Goldsboro.

At first, Piedmont hired males as flight attendants because, in addition to serving passengers in flight, they were required to load and unload baggage and handle the hundred-pound entrance door on the old DC-3 airplanes. When the airline switched to newer airplanes in the early 1960s, Piedmont, like many regional airlines, began hiring female flight attendants, called stewardesses. Requirements for stewardesses were that they be in the 20-to-27-year age range, stand between 5 feet 2 inches and 5 feet 8 inches tall with proportional weight, and have 20/20 vision, short hair, and good personalities and character. The nation's largest airlines had hired female flight attendants since their beginnings in the 1930s.



In 1966 Piedmont Airlines began flying to New York City. Television advertising was too expensive, so Piedmont used radio and the sides of buses and taxicabs to promote this new service. Piedmont's eye-catching advertising slogan "Piedmont Airlines Puts New York City on the Map" appeared in area newspapers and magazines.

Passengers and profits increased during the decade. Net profits grew to more than \$1 million in 1965 and nearly \$2 million by 1967. Piedmont's growth

affected its headquarters in Winston-Salem, where office and hangar space were limited. A new office-hangar complex opened in 1968 and was more than three times the size of the facility it replaced. It could hold six jets for maintenance and repairs. Piedmont also expanded its jet fleet, relying on the Boeing 737, which at first seated ninety-four passengers. It was an easy plane to fly and could use small airports and fly long-range distances.

Piedmont hired Warren Wheeler as its first African American pilot in 1966, and Cheryl Ritchie as the company's first female pilot in 1974. The nation's other airlines took similar steps during this period. Hiring female pilots took longer because of concern about their handling the heavy controls. Ritchie had earned a pilot's license while working as a stewardess for Eastern Airlines.

After hiring a new public relations firm, Piedmont developed more advertisements, sponsored telecasts of Atlantic Coast Conference college basketball games, and began sponsoring race car drivers. Bill Howard became the airline's president and CEO in 1983. Tom Davis, though officially retired, traveled widely to stay in touch with employees, and he chaired the board's executive committee.

Howard led the effort to establish Piedmont's first hub at Charlotte's Douglas Municipal Airport (the name soon changed to Charlotte/Douglas International Airport). The airline had started nonstop service to Miami, Pittsburgh, Boston, Denver, Tampa, and Dallas-Fort Worth from Charlotte by 1979. Charlotte's new terminal building and 10,000-foot parallel runways qualified the airport to serve as a hub. When the new terminal building opened in 1982, Piedmont surprised many people by having more business than arch-rival Eastern Airlines, which had long been Piedmont's biggest competitor at the state's largest airports.

In 1987 Piedmont began nonstop service between Charlotte and London, England, giving North Carolina a direct flight to Europe. At this time, Piedmont had a fleet of 177 aircraft carrying 23 million passengers per year to 235 locations. In the decade since 1977, the staff had grown from 3,711 to more than 21,000. As the airline got bigger, however, it cut service to cities that were not profitable, including Hickory, Rocky Mount, Elizabeth

City, and even Winston-Salem.

In the late 1980s, USAir (now US Airways), with headquarters in the Washington, D.C., area, purchased Piedmont Airlines for \$1.6 billion.

Piedmont is remembered for its reputation for good customer service, for the family atmosphere among its employees, and for its safety. Air Transport World magazine chose Piedmont as the Airline of the Year for 1984. To North Carolinians, Piedmont Airlines was always number one!

Overview “Survival Lessons” A Tribute to Family Community Faith

Nothing is more moving as a tribute than one dedicated to one's family lineage and the valuable wisdom from ancestors. Author William J. Long saw the merit as well in exploring his family tree, especially after his cousin Shelvia requested to know more of their family history. His efforts established this personal family memoir, *Survival Lessons*, which encompasses life lessons from their family's lineage in the small community of Ash North Carolina. Divided into two parts, each focuses on the author and Shelvia's individual families, and how their lives were impacted by history, family trials and the daily occurrences within their faith-based community.

In part one, William recalls growing up and living in the Waccamaw School District. Composed of several small communities they form the rural area known as Ash North Carolina. This area is located in the northwestern part of Brunswick County with the westernmost border being the Waccamaw River. Born in Brunswick County William Joseph Long is the son of Ivery Willie Long and Dorothy Jane Smith. His Long and Smith family roots dates back for many generations migrating from South Carolina and Columbus County, NC.

These first twenty seven chapters is focused on many personal stories. Some are funny, sad, inspiring and a few may even question his sanity or borderline stretching the truth. All are entertaining and lead to a deeper understanding of God's role in times of trouble. One of William's first survival

lessons is “Make good use of what you have”. Here he shows examples of homemade toys and home remedies. In chapter eight William interviews John Stanley as part of the US Bicentennial Celebration. He captures what life was like in the community over the past 100 years thru many questions such as: “Did your granddaddy own slaves? How was most of the land cleared? How did they actually grind the corn? Did people have accidents? Were the teachers brought in here from some other part of the country? What was a typical church service like in those days?” As William closes the first part he pays tribute to war heroes of Ash including those who served in the Civil War and both World Wars. He finishes with a chapter on the Waccamaw High School telling how other than the churches, the school was the pride and joy of the community and his life.

The second part William writes to his cousin Shelvia Jane Smith Formyduval giving a history lesson beginning with the Old Testament and ending with the Civil War. His survival lessons deal with such subjects as “Disobedience to God is Costly” and “Ignoring the lessons of history is foolishness”. He continues with “What may seem the greatest tragedy can become the greatest triumph” and “Look not on the outward appearance of a survivor, but what makes him a survivor”. The book ends with “Nancy's Story” telling how his cousin Nancy Andrews is an excellent example of making more correct choices than bad. How God provides even after what seems a lifetime of wrong choices.

William does extensive research on the communities past, from church establishments to backgrounds on town figures to changes within the community. This book of lineage is to inspire a sense of survival and purpose realizing God provides and shapes each person through the past. It is the work of a survivor knowing something about survival worth reading.

After William's health issues came crashing down in 1996, he was forced to face his own mortality. He has survived loss of family, cancer, four heart attacks, nervous breakdown, betrayal, threats on his life, acute depression, nearly fatal accidents, and the latest: falling off a ladder. But rejoice, there

is good news. If the author can survive, you can too! Walk with him as he tells his story of survival. Take hold of the life preserver being thrown to you and let life lessons leap into your life.

Note: William J. Long has donated a signed copy of his book to the BCHS.

Alta Smith, A Woman of her Time

From "Survival Lessons" by William J. Long

After the war, everybody got into a big hurry to catch up. The men were so busy it was hard to get them to stop long enough to eat. However, this short sentence stopped them in their tracks: **"Go get Alta!"** It was as if they were stunned into a frozen stance. Finally realizing what they heard, they went into panic mode. Young'uns, dogs, cats, chickens and every other living creature knew to get out of the way. Now was no time to be mean and cause trouble with siblings. As sure as we did, at least one adult would make sure of swift retribution to reinforce order. Will give you a personal example later. It ain't pretty! Families were getting bigger and the demand for the services of community midwife Alta Smith exploded. (Some of that catching up!)

The awe and reverence for her in the minds of the small children were next to God! She always left behind a sense of relief and joy in the form of a baby brother or sister. Never had I felt such pride as that of holding my baby sister in my arms for the first time after being delivered by Alta. I introduced her to the world by saying, This is my sister and her name is Bobbie Jane."

Alta Smith deserves a place in the history books that gives her credit for the selfless role she played in our survival. Her selflessness often expressed itself when she would make clothes free of charge for babies born into very poor families. I have the honor of sharing what her daughter Kaye told me about her.

"Alta, my mom was born in 1903 to William Moses Woodard and Alice Lewis Woodard in Supply, North Carolina. She learned at an early age to

till the soil on the family farm. She was the oldest of 14 children of which only 7 survived. Her life was hard but she loved school. One of her responsibilities was to walk her siblings to the school and help them with their homework and studies. She would always laugh and say she repeated her grades many times through her siblings. My mom always admired anyone with an education. She could only manage to take a few weeks studies in Southport to train to be a midwife.

Mom and dad were married in 1930. After marriage she began to deliver babies when she was called and needed. This was not an easy task for her since she wanted to start her own family. She managed to do both. Most likely she would be called during a full moon and always early hours of the morning. Folk in three counties: Brunswick, Columbus and Horry County South Carolina kept her busy.

The black leather bag was off limits to all of us. Being the first girl after having brothers it seems I was the curious one. I just had to know and see what was in the bag!! I climbed on a chair and onto the table. I could easily reach the top of the bag from there. I was disappointed. I don't know what I expected; maybe a baby? After all I was only 6 or 7 years old. All I found was vial after vial with rubber tips and corks. There was nothing exciting at all! Everything was put back as carefully as I could the way I thought I found it. Mom told me later she knew it was me but I really don't remember if I confessed or not. Needless to say I got my rear end fanned! That was the only spanking I got from Mom.

Aunt Melissa Ellen Gore taught mom a lot about delivering babies. Everyone called her Aunt "Lisa" Ellen. She loved her babies. I really feel you must love babies to do midwifery. My mom's career as a midwife gave her great satisfaction. She delivered on 1 stillborn child and 1 breach birth. She always considered herself blessed. I'm not sure of the number of births she assisted with but I'm sure it was close to 1500 or more. All of mother's records were destroyed when our home burned in 1954. She loved being a part of the birth of children. I'm sure we all feel our moms as well as our days were the greatest. I feel that way and talk to my parents

frequently although they passed away many years ago.

My mom was a midwife for about 25 years. Her babies would now be in their 60's to 80's. Hospitals now do the work of the midwife in most places. There still are areas that want to have midwives available. My mom was a "woman of her times."

Let me re-emphasize something: This lady lost only three of the fifteen hundred babies she delivered. She did what she did because of her gracious love for her Lord and her neighbors. Alta this is for you:

We Remember Alta

The children of Ash were the Apple of God's Eye
He wanted us to live and not die
He made someone very special and that someone
was you
Thanks Alta for lovingly bringing us through!

Lesson: Give credit to where credit is due.

Henry Hickman

Henry Hickman, who lived in the Calabash area of Brunswick County, enlisted in the Confederate Army on February 19, 1862, five days after the fall of New Bern, NC. The news of the attacks along

the Outer Banks was thought to be the impetus for a large number of enlistments at this time

Henry served in Company K, 36th NC troops. Company K was located on the mound at Fort Fisher but their cannon was dismounted by enemy fire. The battery continued to fight, using small arms and fought until 10 o'clock, several hours after the official surrender.

Henry was wounded in his arm by a Minnie Ball. His arm was amputated but Henry developed blood poisoning and died on February 7.

According to Confederate records, Henry is buried at Point Lookout Confederate Cemetery, St. Mary's County, Maryland.

Area Events

February 19-21, 2016: Brunswick Town, 250th anniversary of the "Stamp Act Resistance". Travel back to the winter of 1766. Call 910-371-6613.

March 09, 2016: Cape Fear Revolutionary War Roundtable. St. Johns Masonic Lodge #1, 4712 Oriole Drive, Wilmington, NC, time, 7PM. Author and Historian Rendell Jones of Raleigh will be the speaker for the evening. Cost for non-members is \$5.00. Membership is \$25.00 per year.

Happy Valentine's Day to Everyone

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

Please submit any articles or information for future newsletters to Dave Lewis.

Email: davelewis@atmc.net

CALENDER OF EVENTS

BCHS Meetings: February 08, 2016
May 09, 2016
August 08, 2016
November 08, 2016

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