



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 2016 & 2017 Term

President: Richard Hollembeak
Vice-President: Sally Robinson
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Directors: James Robinson
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Newsletter Editor: Dave Lewis

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www.bchs1764.org
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FEBRUARY MEETING TO BE HELD AT BEMC IN SUPPLY, NC FEBRUARY 13, 2017 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the *Brunswick County Historical Society* will be held on Monday, February 13 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 2017 issue of the *NEWSLETTER* began the 58th Volume. Volume I, Number 1 was printed September 1961. A complete set of the Newsletter from September 1961 to November 2016 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).

Our quest speaker will be Diane Kuebert, Regent of the Brunswick Town Chapter of the NSDAR. She will be speaking on the local chapter and their various activities, who would qualify to be a member, and other interesting facts concerning the Daughters of the American Revolution.

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**.

BOONES NECK

Editors Note: This is a follow up to the Boones Neck, Oopen, and Seashore Area article in the November issue of our "Newsletter".

It has long been thought that Thomas Boone who had purchased 1000 acres of land from Roger Moore just east of the Shallotte River was connected to the Boone Hall Plantation located approximately ten miles north of Charleston, South Carolina.

The Boone Hall Plantation is one of the few working/living plantations still in existence today. It is a true antebellum era plantation founded in 1681 when Englishman Major John Boone came to Charleston and established a lucrative plantation and gracious home on the banks of Wampacheone Creek. The family and descendants of Major John Boone were influential in the history of South Carolina, the colonies and the nation.



Approach to Boone Hall Plantation
Photo taken Dec. 2016

In 1743 Thomas Boone, son of John, planted 88 live oak trees, arranging them in two evenly spaced rows. This spectacular three quarters of a mile approach to his home symbolizes southern heritage. It would take two centuries for the massive, moss-draped branches to meet overhead, forming today's natural corridor and making Boone Hall America's most photographed plantation. One can catch a glimpse of the oaks in an early scene of "Gone With the Wind", mini-series "North and South" and other movies and TV specials. Today encompassing 738 acres, the plantation offers you the opportunity to pick your own produce in season.

Thomas Boone's will, dated November 01, 1749 and recorded in Berkley County in the Province of South Carolina will book 1747-52, page 231 states, "I give and bequeath unto my said son William Boone the Land I Purchased from Roger Moore Esq. on Shallot River." On February 19, 1756 William Boone sold this land to Joseph Hewett and Henry Leonard. This is found in the New Hanover County Deed Book D, page 223. Thomas had also applied for a land grant on January 23, 1734 for 640 acres of land at the "Head of the N.E. branch of Little Shallotte River". This grant does not appear to have been recorded in a patent book. It is very possible that the grant was never issued; more research is required. This was found in the North Carolina Land Grant files, 1693-1960, No. 012.

Thomas died on November 2, 1749 and is buried on his Boone Hall Plantation. He bequeathed his plantation to his son John.

These documents now prove that the Boones Neck area was once owned by the Boone's of Christ Church Parish in Berkley County, South Carolina which is now Mount Pleasant, Charleston County, South Carolina and from which comes the name "Boones Neck."

THE CAROLINA BAYS

The origins of the Carolina Bays located in southeastern North Carolina are legendary. The Waccamaw Siouan Indians say thousands of years ago the night sky flared incandescent as a meteor fell ablaze from the west and struck earth. As surrounding swamps and rivers flowed into the concaved ground cooling the basin and its waters to hues of blue and green, Lake Waccamaw was created.

"We are the 'People of the Falling Star,'" the North Carolina tribe declares.

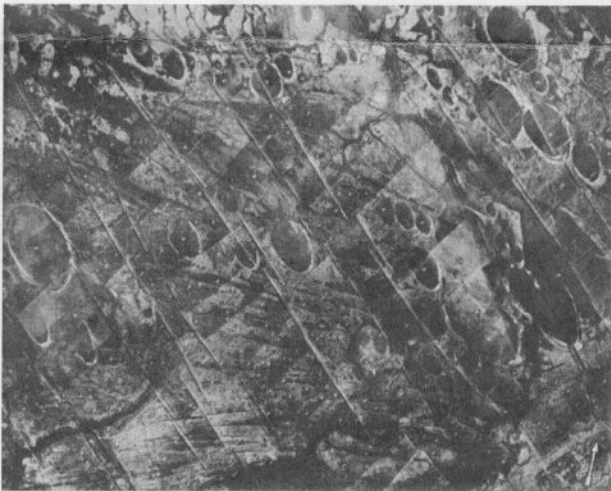
Scientists in the mid-1900s devoted careers to their study, debated furiously in print, were celebrated, vilified, laughed at, and honored all in an attempt to explain what gouged out half a million shallow divots along the East Coast.

The subtle marks are called Carolina Bays, a name so breathtakingly misleading that almost no one

these days have heard of them. The bays are not connected to the sea or to rivers, so they are not really bays. Only a few hold water, and these look so much like ordinary lakes that some are, in fact, named Lake This or Lake That. They are not restricted to the Carolinas, but instead are found in great numbers from New Jersey to Georgia, with hundreds along the Eastern Shore and Virginia Beach. Eastern North Carolina contains up to eighty percent of all Carolina Bays that are a crucial feature of the Cape Fear region.

Many of the bays are not lakes but bogs or periodic wetlands. As such, they are often important to migrating waterfowl, such as herons, egrets and wood storks. Dragonflies, green anole lizards and green tree frogs are often abundant in these areas. In some drained-out bays, the peat at the bottom will extend to a depth of 11 to 50 feet. Below the peat is generally a rim or natural lining of white sand.

Even with at least 19 theories of bay formation offered over the past 161 years, nobody knows what made them.



Early aerial photograph that started the controversy of the origin of the Carolina Bays.

Because the bays are depressions, they tend to be wetlands. Indians called them pocosins. They came to be known as bay swamps because of the trees that grew there: sweet bay and loblolly bay and red bay. Then because they were first noticed in North and South Carolina, they began to be called Carolina Bays.

They are generally elliptical in shape, although

those from Virginia north and Georgia south tend to be a little rounder. They are oriented in the same direction, roughly northwest although, again, there are caveats: the ones from Virginia north tend to point a little more to the west, while the southern ones tend to point a little more north.

They have white sand rims, thicker on the southeast edge, that stand anywhere from a few inches to several feet in height. Some bays overlap others and, where they do, the rim of the top bay is in place, and the bottom rim obliterated.

In North Carolina Bladen County is half covered in bays; one researcher has counted 900 there. On elevation images made by lasers that can see through vegetation, bays appear that don't even show up on photos. The technology has caused some researchers to double the estimate of Carolina bays to close to a million.

"The Carolina Bays are without doubt one of the most remarkable geomorphic features on the surface of the earth," wrote geologist Douglas Johnson in 1942. "They share with submarine canyons the distinction of being among the most difficult of earth forms to explain." Many have tried.

The first person to write about a bay in late 1700 was merely complaining. Naturalist John Lawson wrote of "a prodigious wide and deep Swamp, being forc'd to strip stark-naked: and much a-do to save ourselves from drowning".

The second person to ponder the bays was a geologist who looked at South Carolina and decided, in 1847, that the lakes there must be fed by underground springs and that wind lapping the water had smoothed them into ellipses. His theory was promptly forgotten.

In 1895, the first bay article appeared in a professional journal. Writing in *Science*, L.C. Glenn proposed that the lakes in the Carolinas had formed when sea level dropped, leaving behind sandbars that held water in valleys. No one really cared.

Another author theorized in the *Journal of Geology* in 1931 that rock had dissolved under the bays, causing the land to sink, but interest was slight until Myrtle Beach Estates took advantage of a new technology called aerial photography to look at its land holdings in South Carolina. Shortly afterward,

the federal Agriculture Department inventoried farmland from the air, and the results of the two surveys were amazing: Thousands and thousands of Carolina bays were revealed up and down the East Coast, all basically elliptical, all pointing northwest.

Everyone was surprised. Farmers had known about local bays because the soil was rich, if acidic, and many were drained for cropland before wetlands were protected by law in 1972. Foresters also knew their local bays because the depressions collected leaves and other organic matter that compressed over centuries into peat. Peat is a stubborn fuel that burns slowly, though with great persistence, as ground fires that last for months and even years.

The photos showed so many. An engineer said they looked like craters on the moon, and the public imagination was fired.

One writer proposed in 1933 that a comet had struck the East Coast, gouging out the bays. A geologist soon thereafter proposed that wind-created eddies in estuaries had done all the work. Others asked why then were the bays confined to the Atlantic Coast? Nobody had an answer.

In 1934 a new player emerged. William F. Prouty, geology department head at the University of North Carolina, said magnetic tests on the bays supported the meteorite theory. The same year Douglas Johnson wrote an article titled "Supposed Meteorite Scars of South Carolina," launching a war of words that would go on between the two - the extraterrestrial supporter and the wind-and-water man - for nearly 20 years.

Chapman Grant put forth a theory that spawning fish, held in a northwest position by currents, had dug out the bays by fanning their tails on the sea floor. Since the largest Carolina bay is nearly 12 miles long this would have required a lot of fish, and the theory failed to explain why the depressions would not have been destroyed by crashing surf as sea level dropped and exposed the bottom. The response published by the same journal was titled "On Grant's Fish Story."

One researcher proposed dust devils, another said melting icebergs, but the debate slowed considerably with Johnson's death in 1948. Prouty died before finishing his final article about the bays, but he

still got the last word as a publisher added an editor's note and ran it in 1952 three years after Prouty's death. In it he proposed that a comet had struck the southeastern coast of the United States. As evidence he had plotted on a map meteorites found across Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia and other inland states. Still no meteorites turned up in the bays themselves.

By the 1960s terrestrial theorists had the upper hand, and attention turned to the biological diversity of the Carolina bays. Insect-eating plants such as the Venus Flytrap were identified. Fish species that were found nowhere else were studied in Lake Waccamaw.

No completely satisfactory explanation has been found for why Carolina Bays formed, or why they share the same orientation. The most universal agreement is determinedly, undetermined. Toby Hall, superintendent at Lake Waccamaw State Park, explains that the orientation and depressions caused by wind and water currently has the most credence. It suggests that as the ocean retreated pools of water remained. Strong winds and consequential waves from the north-northeast elongated the ponds into their present elliptical shape.

What is known is that the Carolina Bays in our Cape Fear region are significant to preserving the bounty and diversity of the wildlife we enjoy along our coastal plain, and conservation of these areas is very important. The bays also offer recreational opportunities to those who live or visit within this area of North Carolina.

*Sources: The Virginian-Pilot news article by Diane Tennant, Sept. 7, 2008.
"What are Carolina Bays," StarNews article by Ben Steelman, April 29, 2009.
"Carolina Bays," article by William S. Powell, 2006.
"Naturalist's Notebook: Carolina Bays, Another Man's Treasure" by Janna Sasser, Autumn 2015 issue of Coast-watch.*

MIGRATION of the FULFORDS

It is unknown exactly who was the first Fulford to settle in North Carolina or from whence he came. It

is believed by some that a John Fulford from Devon, England, spent some time in Barbados. From there he supposedly ventured to the shores of North America and wound up in North Carolina in the early 1700's.

We do know that a John Fulford had obtained a land grant for property in Carteret County as early as July 1713. Doris M. Green in her book, "Fog's Comin' In," states that "John Fulford sailed the *Matthew* from London to the Barbados in 1635. Joseph Fulford Sr., son of John, came to America and was granted 520 acres of land on the Pamlico River in 1708". Mrs. Green further states that "A grant of 130 acres lying on Core Sound, west side of Nelson's Creek, was given November 11, 1719". Records show that a Joseph Fulford sold this same land to Abraham Mitchell on March 7, 1727.

King George II of England gave a grant of 450 acres to Joseph Fulford Jr. at the head of Fulford's Creek in Straits on March 11, 1740. The Straits is located in Carteret County behind Harkers Island. This is found in Patent Book 5, #2431, Page 129. Colonial Records IV, Page 588 says 400 acres.

As the Carteret County Fulford family began acquiring land, they played a prominent role in the early days around Beaufort, North Carolina. An entry in the records at the Carteret County Courthouse shows the gift of land by Joseph Fulford, (born 1725) and Elijah Pigott for the erection of a lighthouse on Cape Lookout. "We, Joseph Fulford and Elijah Pigott of the County of Carteret and the State of North Carolina in consideration of the sum of \$1 paid to us by the United States of America, the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell...to the said United States of America four acres of land on Cape Lookout so-called in the State aforesaid for the accommodation of a lighthouse to be erected in pursuance of the Act of Congress passed on the 20th day of March 1804." Fulford also specified that he retain the fishing rights around Cape Lookout in perpetuity for his descendants. The lighthouse began service in 1812.

The first known keeper of the light was Joseph Fulford's son, James (1755-1839), who was appointed by President James Madison on June 2, 1812 with

a yearly salary of \$300. James married Rebecca Harker and served as keeper for sixteen years. In 1828 James son, William (1796-1864), became the lighthouse keeper and served until 1854.

Carteret County records continue to show the Fulfords to be major land-owners in the late 1700's and early 1800's. They held many local government offices and were officers and enlisted men of the North Carolina Militia, Carteret Regiment during the Revolutionary War.

By the early 1820's many Carteret County families were moving into different parts of the United States leaving the area by boat, horseback or wagon train. The Fulfords were no exception and many left the area around 1823 with the intent to relocate to the Mobile, Alabama region. Many families decided while enroute to settle along the way with many of them staying in the Plains, Georgia area.

A wagon train was organized in 1823 and left Carteret County for Alabama. Originally they settled in Marengo County, Alabama but eventually settled in Baldwin County, Alabama. Oxen pulled the wagons which carried all their belongings and each person walked as much as they were able, with some making the sixty day journey on foot.

After a short stay in Alabama some Fulfords decided to move to Cortez, Florida on the Gulf of Mexico. Taking advantage of the fishing around Cortez the Fulfords helped to establish the little fishing village. Because they were unable to regain their market share for commercial fishing after the Civil War more Fulfords from Carteret County migrated to Cortez during the mid to late 1800's.

Not all Fulfords that left Carteret County moved out of state. Two, Isaiah and his brother, John, moved to Brunswick County shortly before 1850. John married Annie L. Hewett about 1850, and Isaiah married Annie's sister, Anzie, on December 16, 1858. Together they are the patriarchs of all the Fulfords in Brunswick County. Isaiah and John both served in the Galloway's Coast Guard Company during the Civil War.

It is not clearly known who the parents of Isaiah and John were, but it has been said that Joseph Ful-

ford and his first wife were their parents. Isaiah Norvin Fulford, the grandson of Isaiah, confirmed that his grandfather and great uncle did come from Carteret County. The search still goes on.



Original grave of Isaiah Fulford Abt. 1871 and his replacement in October 2011

Last name: Fulford

Source: *The Internet Surname Database*

This unusual name is of Anglo-Saxon origin and is a local surname deriving from any one of the various places in Devonshire, Somerset, Staffordshire and East Yorkshire called Fulford. The place in Devonshire is recorded as "Foleford" in the Domesday Book of 1086, that in Somerset in its Latin form of "sordidum vadum" in the Saxon Chronicles of 854, Fulford in Staffordshire as "Fuleford" in the Domesday Book, and Gate and Water Fulford in East Yorkshire as "Fuleford" in the Domesday Book. All of these places share the same meaning and derivation, which is "the dirty ford," from the Olde English pre 7th Century "ful", foul, dirty, with "ford".

Local surnames were acquired especially by those former inhabitants of a place who had moved to another area and were thereafter best identified by the name of their birthplace. A number of bearers of the name Fulford are descended from the William de Fulford cited below, who held the manor of Great Fulford near Exeter. Early recordings of the name include Robert de Fulfort (1219, Yorkshire), Richard de Fulford (1280, Worcestershire), and Thomas Fuleford (1327, Sussex).

One John Fulford was an early emigrant to the New World colonies, leaving London on the "Mathew" for St. Christopher's in May 1635. The

first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of William de Fulford, which was dated circa 1190, in the "Pipe Rolls of Devonshire," during the reign of King Richard 1, known as "The Lionheart", 1189 - 1199.

Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries surnames in every country have continued to develop, often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

REMEMBER THE APRON Vanishing Americana

Grandma's Apron

I don't think our kids know what an apron is.

The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, because she only had a few, it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and they used less material, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears...

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

And when the weather was cold grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables.

After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men-folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

REMEMBER:

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool.

Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron.

I never caught anything from an apron...But Love.

(Author Unknown)

NOTE: This poem "Grandma's Apron" is often listed as "Author Unknown" but the original version was written by Tina Trivett.

COLONIAL CANNON

A colonial cannon was discovered just before Christmas by the Norfolk Dredging Company working the Cape Fear River near Sunny Point and presented to Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson.

"The cannon may have been part of the Spanish attack on Brunswick Town in the mid-eighteenth century," Assistant State Archaeologist Chris Southerly reported.

A water tank for the conservation effort will be at the site in the near future and full restoration of the cannon could take anywhere from one to three years. The public will be invited to view the process.

AREA EVENTS

February 18-19, 2017: *Plunging Shot and Screaming Shell*, 152nd anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson. Ten o'clock am. Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site.

Happy Valentine's Day

**Membership Application ... Invite a Friend to Join
Brunswick County Historical Society**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail _____

New: _____ or Renewal _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Receive *Newsletter* by email: Y N

Annual Dues: Individual \$15 Life Membership \$150
Mail this form with your check to: P.O. Box 874, Shallotte, NC 28459