



NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME LVIII

NOVEMBER 2018

NUMBER 4

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: Richard Hollembeak
Vice-President: Sally Robinson
Secretary: Roberta Brady
Treasurer: Bob Armour
Directors: James Robinson
 Jim Marlowe
 Dave Lewis

Newsletter Editor: Dave Lewis



MAY MEETING TO BE HELD AT BEMC IN SUPPLY, NC NOVEMBER 12, 2018 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the *Brunswick County Historical Society* will be held on Monday, November 12th 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 2018 issue of the *NEWSLETTER* began the 59th 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).

Program

Our guest for the November meeting will be David A. Stallman. After retiring from IBM, Mr. Stallman began his second career of research, writing and publishing, much of which centers around Topsail Island and Camp Davis. His presentation will include the "Women in the Wild Blue," target-towing WASP (Women Air-force Service Pilots) stationed at Camp Davis during WWII.

Dues

DUES for the year 2019 will be payable by February 2019 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**.

Florence

It is my sincere hope and prayer that everyone receiving this "Newsletter" who were in the path of hurricanes Florence and Michael remain safe and well and left with as little damage as possible given the magnitude of these storms.

Dave Lewis

Battle of Cape Fear River (1718)

Throughout North Carolina's history, our coastal waters have always been treacherous to navigate. The Cape Fear region is no exception. It has been 300 years since Stede Bonnet plied the waters of the Cape Fear River. Well known as the "Gentleman Pirate", Captain Bonnet terrorized commerce and left an indelible mark on the imaginations of people for generations.

The Battle of Cape Fear River, or the Battle of the Sandbars, was fought in September 1718 between a British naval expedition from the Province of South Carolina against the pirate ships of Stede Bonnet. British forces defeated the pirates in the Cape Fear River estuary which led to Bonnet's death by hanging in Charles Towne.

Bonnet's piracy had a most unusual beginning. Most pirates became captains after they had captured a vessel or after they emerged as a leader among an existing crew. At the age of 12, Bonnet had visualized himself as a swashbuckling knight-errant living by the sword. Many boys have such dreams but reject them with maturity. A second generation Barbadian planter he turned brigand by the age of twenty-eight. Abandoning his wife and three children he purchased his vessel, the *Revenge*, and six cannons to arm it, recruited and employed a crew and paid them a salary. Known as "Gentleman Pirate" he embarked on an adventure sailing throughout the Caribbean and the North Atlantic committing piracy. An adventure that he soon regretted.

Bonnet and his crew first sailed up and down the Atlantic seaboard of the United States. After six months of looting, he careened the *Revenge* at a hideout in the Cape Fear Inlet. (Careening is turn-

ing a vessel on its side in order to clean or make repairs; this was necessary maintenance).

When the necessary repairs were made, Bonnet sailed back to Nassau and the *Revenge* and crew encountered a Spanish Man of War. In the subsequent conflict, Bonnet was hurt and the crew sailed a crippled ship back to the port. There, Bonnet met Benjamin Hornigold and Blackbeard agreeing to let the latter, an observant manipulator, command the *Revenge* while he recovered. Blackbeard noticed that the *Revenge* crew lacked respect for their captain, Bonnet.

After Bonnet and his crew had mended their wounds and tended the ship, they once again plundered trade on the high seas, but they soon suffered an inglorious defeat. Humiliated, Bonnet and the *Revenge* sailed to Belize. There they saw Blackbeard and his *Queen Anne's Revenge*. Bonnet's crew complained about their leader's "personality weaknesses and poor seamanship," writes historian Lindley Butler.

In a few days, Blackbeard tricked Bonnet and assumed command of the *Revenge*. A crew of 400 men and 3 ships raided the high seas and sailed to Beaufort for a respite. Sailing into the Beaufort Inlet, two boats were grounded on sandbars. Questions remain whether the grounding of the boats was accidental or intentional. Either way, while a somewhat regretful Bonnet sought a pardon from the Royal Governor of North Carolina, Charles Eden, Blackbeard seized the opportunity to escape in a Spanish ship with the loot. Only five men remained on Bonnet's *Revenge*.

A pardoned Bonnet sought revenge. Under aliases such as Captain Edwards and Captain Thomas, he and an assembled crew of forty sailed after Blackbeard. After learning that Blackbeard had fled Ocracoke, Bonnet turned his attention to raiding the Atlantic seaboard. He captured several large vessels and divided the treasure equally among his crew.

In July 1718 off Cape Henlopen, Delaware, Bonnet captured two ships, the *Frances* and *Fortune* and sailed with them out of Delaware Bay and south toward the Carolinas. Captain Bonnet was in high

spirits. Although still angry about Blackbeard's trick, he was regaining his confidence and reveling in his success. It did not occur to him as he sailed out of Delaware Bay, his men carousing and guzzling rum, that he was about to make the worst decision of his career.

Since the *Revenge* was entirely too well known as a pirate vessel, Bonnet renamed her *Royal James*. The newly named ship had not been cleaned in some time and was leaking, leaving Bonnet no choice but to find a safe harbor and careen her.



Roadside monument located at Bonnet's Creek, Southport, NC

Arriving at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, the pirates decided to sail upriver to an isolated cove just past present day Southport (along Moore St. between Rhett St. and Willis Dr.) to make repairs. Beside the creek, almost unnoticed, rest a small marker with a metal plaque bearing the following inscription. "Bonnet's Creek... Stede Bonnet, the Gentleman Pirate used the mouth of this creek as a hide-out for his vessel, the *Royal James* formerly called *Revenge*. Here on September 26, 1718, the great Battle of the Sand Bars was fought between the pirates and the men sent to capture them under the command of Col. William Rhett aboard the *Henry* and *Sea Nymph*. After a twenty-four hour battle there were nineteen men killed, twenty-three wounded, and Bonnet, with the remains of his pirate crew, surrendered. On November 8, 1718, twenty-nine pirates were hanged in Charleston, S.C." If Bonnet had been as experienced as he thought he was, he simply would have changed to one of the two captured vessels with "clean heels."

Both were in better condition than the *Royal James*.

The maintenance of the *Royal James* was taking longer than Bonnet had estimated. Life as a buccaneer had its drawbacks. One being unable to seek parts and repairs in a harbor that offered these services to law-abiding vessels. Quartermaster Morton had gone to scout for what he needed in Charles Towne. It was not easy to find replacement parts, and the pirates had to capture a small ship in the river and salvage what they needed. The prisoners they released went to Charles Towne and reported that pirates were careening in the Cape Fear.

Officials hearing this news were convinced the pirates were Capt. Vane and his crew who had been terrorizing Charlestonians. Leaving Charles Towne, Col. Rhett sailed north entering the Cape Fear River in search of the careened pirate ship. Shortly after spotting the three ships lying at anchor Col. Rhett's ships ran aground in shallow water. Seeing the masts of Rhett's ships, and thinking they were unarmed merchant vessels Capt. Bonnet sent a raiding party out in the darkness to overtake the ships and cargo. They were surprised to find sixteen mounted guns on two large sloops and scurried back to report to Bonnet.

Stede Bonnet prepared for battle, transferring all arms and prisoners to the *Royal James* and abandoning the other two ships. Bonnet sailed sidelong toward shore and grounded his ship making it impossible for Colonel Rhett to keep the *Royal James* between his ships and the result was that both the *Henry* and the *Sea Nymph* also ran aground. The firing began and continued for six hours. At last the *Henry* floated free and began to move toward the pirate vessel. After an intense battle Bonnet surrendered himself, his ship and his crew. Identified as Captain Stede Bonnet, Col. Rhett was in shock finding that his captive was not Charles Vane. Rhett sailed with his prisoners back to Charles Towne.

Bonnet's treatment in Charles Towne was most courteous but the fact that he would have to stand trail enraged Bonnet. Dressed in women's clothes, Capt. Bonnet and one of his crewmen escaped and sailed northward in a small open boat. Stormy

weather forced the pair to turn back to Sullivan's Island where Rhett recaptured them. This time the authority's attitude toward the pirate captain was harsh. Bonnet had forfeited the sympathy some Charlestonians had previously held for him as a "gentleman."

A jury found Capt. Stede Bonnet "guilty as charged" after his men testified against him. Even a desperate letter in which Bonnet pleaded his new conversion to Christianity did not move Governor Johnson who well remembered that Stede Bonnet had the blood on his hands of numerous murders.

December 10, 1718 was set as the day of execution. Capt. Stede Bonnet, "Gentleman Pirate," life of excitement, danger, bloodshed and violence had lasted only a little over a year. The hanging of a pirate was considered a public holiday and entire families came from the countryside to make a day of it. Bonnet died clutching a tiny bouquet of flowers. His body would be left hanging for four days.

During the end of the Golden Age of Piracy, the Royal Navy was constantly in campaign against pirates in the Caribbean and off North America.

*Sources: Blackbeard and Other Pirates of the Atlantic Coast, by Nancy Roberts
Wikipedia, Battle of Cape Fear River (1718)
Stede Bonnet (1688 – 1718), Written by North Carolina History Project*

Wat Carolina

Located on Bolivia's Midway Road a Buddhist monastery sits shrouded in heavy woods behind yellow iron gates and a "welcome visitors" sign. Most people in Brunswick County have heard of it. Some might even know where it is. But few have visited Wat Carolina, the Buddhist monastery near Bolivia.

Thirty two years ago, Abbot Phrakru Buddhamonpricha came to visit his siblings who owned the Ocean Crest Pier and motel on Oak Island. Trained by Thailand's highest ranking monk, he had already established a monastery in Jakarta, Indonesia. During his visit, he saw potential for a

temple in North Carolina.

The monastery began in 1987 when he created the Buddhist Association of North Carolina with his siblings using a donation from his sister. He opened Wat Carolina on roughly 20 acres of land purchased by his sister. Originally, the monastery consisted of a small house which still serves as a temple and resident housing. Years later a large multipurpose hall was completed and is part of the abbot's master plan, which includes future resident housing and a temple. He recalled he "felt good vibrations from the land." Sitting cross-legged on a slightly elevated wooden platform, he said the vibrations were not just spiritual.

"The air is full of oxygen and little carbon monoxide – I can feel it in my body. After being worn down daily like a battery, I feel recharged with energy the next day," said the 77-year-old monk. He and two novice monks wearing the traditional yellow-orange Buddhist garb, follow a disciplined daily schedule. It begins at 8 a.m. with an hour of group chanting and meditation followed by 90 minutes of studying or chores. At 10:30 am the monks eat. Though "monastery" may conjure up images of monks living off the land, the monks at Wat Carolina live simply and rely wholly on donations to survive. Monks also receive take out. The Thai Peppers restaurant in Southport delivers food every Thursday and food may not be eaten after noon and alcohol is never permitted.

A water ceremony follows the meal. Water is poured from one vessel to another to symbolize the transfer of one's merit to one's ancestors. Afterward, the senior monk meets with visitors and shares the dhamma (teachings of Buddha). The balance of the day is devoted to chores, studying and meditating. At 8 p.m., the monks gather again for several hours of chanting and meditation.

A phone call to the monastery is usually answered by the abbot himself. Demonstrating his awareness of current events, Phrakru Buddhamonpricha asked a visitor, "What is the similarity between Buddhism and Michael Phelps?" He answered, "constant practice," and pointed to a chart depicting the path to nibbana or enlightenment.

The monastery attracts about 25-30 participants on Sunday and more than 300 attending large celebrations. Dressed in his orange robe, the abbot has a message of hope for a troubled world. "By using positive spiritual energy or good vibrations, we can dilute the strong negative power in the world today," he said. "We change things, we can fight it."

*Sources: Terry Reilly, Wilmington StarNews, August 2016.
Kristin Boyle, StarNews Correspondent September 2005.*

Elias Harold Hickman

Harold Hickman, the son of Henry Melton Hickman and Cora Belle Jenrette, was born December 19, 1925 in Wilmington, North Carolina and died October 14, 2018. Both of his parents were born within a quarter-mile of Hickman's Crossroads in the western end of Brunswick County near Calabash. His father was a blacksmith working for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

Harold lived in Wilmington until the end of his first school year in the spring of 1932. At that time, due to the severe economic depression, his father was allowed to work only two or sometimes three days a week making it impossible to keep the family in Wilmington on his income. His father moved the family back to western Brunswick County where they lived in an old four-room school building that his father had purchased from the Brunswick County Board of Education after the schools were consolidated in 1928.

The Hickman family lived in Brunswick County for the next six years before moving back to Wilmington. Harold remembers vividly being in the library of New Hanover High School on December 8, 1941 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced that the United States had declared war on Japan and Germany. The announcement had little impact on him at that time since he was just under sixteen years old and didn't really consider the possibility of having to serve in the military forces to fight.

Moving back to Brunswick County Harold finished his basic education at Shallotte High School before

he became subject to the draft for military service December 19, 1943. On February 4, 1944 his name reached the draft board and was ordered to Fort Bragg for physical examination and was inducted into the US Army on April 4, 1944. He completed 21 weeks of medical basic training at Camp Barkley in Abilene, Texas and then assigned to the 232nd General Hospital as a Medical Technician. His unit was ordered to the Western Pacific Theatre and they departed from Seattle, Washington on a small Dutch freighter and arriving at Pearl Harbor several days later where the horrors of war became obvious. The ship departed three days later for Saipan with a stop for supplies in the Marshall Islands. They finally arrived at Iwo Jima forty-four days after departing from Seattle. Iwo Jima was the only ground combat Harold was involved in and remained there until after the war ended. His unit left in March 1946 returning to Oakland Army Base in California in sixteen days. He was discharged on April 22, 1946 at Fort McPherson Army Base in Atlanta, Georgia.

For the next five years, Harold lived and worked on a tobacco farm owned by his father. He married Ila Virginia Bellamy and they had two sons, Danny Harold and Ronald Elias, during that period. He left the farm at the end of harvest in 1951 taking a job with the U.S. Maritime Commission at the Reserve Fleet that was anchored in the Brunswick River near Wilmington. He was employed as a Male Nurse First Aid Attendant to provide first aid treatment for the 400 employees. He was given extra duty as the Safety Assistant to the Fleet Superintendent.

In 1957 Harold enrolled in New York University school of Safety Administration and later attended the Northwestern University school of Traffic Safety Engineering. After finishing his education he obtained a job with the Department of Army as the Safety Manager of the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point near Southport. He was eventually given the assignment as Director of Safety and Security of the Terminal and became a member of the Primary Staff. Harold retired in September 1981 with more than 32 years of service.

Being an avid hunter and fisherman all his life he decided to turn his skills into a profit. Passing the

U.S. Coast Guard examination and issued an Ocean Operator license he started a charter boat operation as a captain and guide taking people fishing for flounder, spot-tail bass and speckled trout.

In 2001 Harold Hickman used his seventy-five years of living in Brunswick County to write his book, "The Spirit of Living In and Around Calabash - Yesteryear, Yesterday, and Today." He does a wonderful job of bringing local history and the culture of living in Brunswick County to life, allowing the readers to enjoy being a part of the eastern area of the Carolinas.

Source: "The Spirit of Living In and Around Calabash-Yesteryear, Yesterday and Today" by Captain Harold Hickman

Brunswick County Casualties of WWII US Army and Army Air Force

Angle, Clyde	S SG	KIA
Bellamy, Ellis	PVT	DNB
Bragaw, Henry	CAPT	KIA
Brew, Edward M	SGT	KIA
Brooks, Norwood O	PFC	KIA
Burkett, Leroy D	S SG	KIA
Caison, Jacob L	CPL	KIA
Cliff, Harvey	TEC 4	DNB
Cox, Charles M	SGT	DNB
Farino, Emilio	PVT	FOD
Hayes, Clarence H	TEC 4	KIA
King, Edward L	1 SG	KIA
Kinsler, Kenneth H	COL	DNB
Leonard, Mahlon M	PFC	DNB
Lewis, Barney J	PVT	DNB
Lewis, Joseph C	S SG	KIA
Long, Roscoe S	PVT	KIA
McGinnis, William C	T SG	DNG
Moore, Albert L	PVT	DNB
Ramsey, Robert W	S SG	KIA
Robinson, Calder B	CPL	DNB
Stanley, Edward	PVT	DNB
Stanley, James C	PFC	KIA
Sutton, Hobart L	TEC 5	KIA

Willetts, Solomon I PVT DNB

Abbreviations: Types of Casualties

DNB Died, non-battle

FOD Under Public Law 490, Finding of Death

KIA Killed in Action

Source: National Archives online search

Thank You for Your Sacrifice

Source: Wrightsville Beach Magazine, November 2017, By Cindy Ramsey

Desert Storm veterans returned home to picnics and parades. Veterans arriving home from Iraq and Afghanistan in the years since are respected, and their service appreciated even as support for those wars has waned. Americans recognize the difference between supporting our troops and supporting war, and embrace the acts of heroism and valor these brave individuals exhibit.

But the veterans who fought in Vietnam, the first war that the American public did not reflect on with pride, were neither respected nor appreciated. They were ridiculed and spat upon, protested and vilified. Americans expressed their grief and anger by lashing out at soldiers as perpetrators of the war.

"A Vietnam vet could take being spat upon by one person. What broke our hearts was being spat upon by our country," wrote Vietnam veteran Gary C. Peters in a letter included among more than 200 excerpted in Bob Green's book "Homecoming: When the Soldiers Returned from Vietnam" (Putnam 1989).

They never wanted nor expected parades and celebrations. All they wanted then - and now - is for people to try to understand and genuinely appreciate what they sacrificed for democracy and freedom.

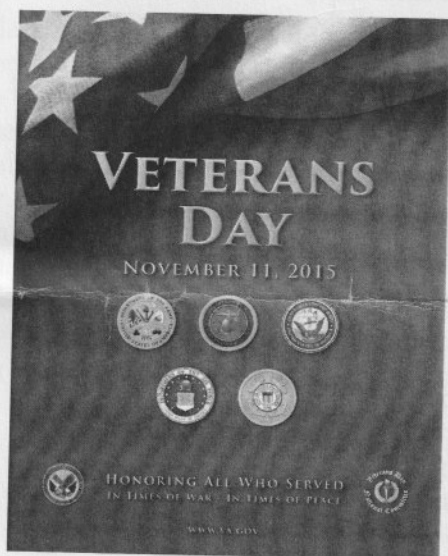
Post - 9/11 patriotism has trickled down to Vietnam veterans. For some, it may be too little, too late. But at least now they are not afraid to identify themselves as Vietnam veterans. They wear their hats and shirts with pride and don't hesitate to show their ID cards.

BCHS Officers

The nominating committee has completed their search for new BCHS officers and will present them to the membership during the November meeting. Make your plans now to attend. Your vote is important for the future of the BCHS.

Veterans Day

Veterans Day 2018 will be on Sunday, November 11th and Monday, November 12th is designated as a Federal Holiday. This special day marks the Centennial Commemoration of the end of World War I on November 11, 1918.



There are many local Veterans Day ceremonies and parades. Check your local news sites or Veterans organizations and charities for more information.

Odds and Ends

State of North Carolina, Brunswick County, October 1, 1873. To the Register of Deeds: The Board of Examiners of Brunswick County report according to Section 15 School Law, the names and number of teachers to whom they have given certificates during the year ending October 1, 1873.

White Teachers – No. of Males, 8; No. of Females, 1. Colored Teachers – No. of Males, 3.

The following are the names of teachers to whom certificates have been granted: Joseph B. Marble, E.M. Rosafy, Asa Ross, John N. Bennett, McCarroll B. Gause, James M. King, Geo. N. Hill, Jonathan Bennett, Miss Kate Stuart, John W. Davis, Limus Mimps, Geo. Simmons.

Source: Brunswick County Records, NC Archives. As written.

Area Closures

Brunswick Town / Fort Anderson remains closed due to hurricane Florence but hopes to reopen by the middle of November.

Moore's Creek National Battlefield reopened for normal operations on October 15, 2018 except for their Fall Living history programs which are all canceled.

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