



# NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME LVIII

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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 2019 & 2020 Term

President: James Green  
Vice-President: Gwen Causey  
Secretary: Roberta Brady  
Treasurer: Bob Armour  
Directors: Sally Robinson  
Jim Marlowe  
Dave Lewis

Newsletter Editor: Dave Lewis



## FEBRUARY MEETING TO BE HELD AT BEMC IN SUPPLY, NC FEBRUARY 11, 2019 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the *Brunswick County Historical Society* will be held on Monday, February 11th 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 2019 issue of the *NEWSLETTER* begins the 58th Volume. Volume I, Number 1 was printed September 1961. A complete set of the Newsletter from September 1961 to November 2018 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**.

## Program

Our speaker for the February meeting will be Mrs. Susan Usher Eggert. Her topic will be "Bishop Asbury and His Travels Through Brunswick County."

## New BCHS Officers

A new slate of officers for the 2019-2020 term were elected at the November 2018 BCHS meeting. The February 2019 meeting will be lead by President, James Green, Vice President, Gwen Causey, Secretary, Roberta Brady, Treasurer, Bob Armour. Board of Directors are, Sally Robinson, Jim Marlowe, and Dave Lewis.

The BCHS wishes to thank outgoing President Richard Hollebeak, and Vice President Sally Robinson for their leadership and support.

## Diary of James W. Albright

Albright was a Confederate Soldier from Greensboro, NC. His diary is part of the Southern Historical Collection #1008, Chapel Hill. Taken from "*Bent Gras, News from the Benton Family Tree*" publication, *provided by David and Judy Holden*.

James Albright was stationed at Fort Clifton, near Petersburg, Va. when he received orders to march to Wilmington on January 6, 1864. His diary tells us about the daily life and adventures of a Confederate Soldier who spent considerable time in the Brunswick and New Hanover County areas. It provides us with a rare glimpse into the area and how our ancestors lived during this time in history.

*Transcribed as written, including spelling and punctuation.*

Jan. 6 – Received orders to march to Wilmington. I was ordered to Carysburg to await the wagons and exchange places with Capt. Gregory – he taking the cars and I going with the wagons – How I hate this, as it will take 10 days to make the trip overland at this time of year...

Jan. 7 – Capt. Gregory arrived at 3 o'clock. Met Gen. Joab Hiatt of Greensboro. He told me F.A. Garrett was dead. Gregory and myself went to Weldon, where we saw the boys on board train for Wilmington. We went out about half a mile from town and pitched our tents. Snowing and sleeting...Capt. G. conclude to take the whole command on the cars – so I will make a flying trip to

Murphy's depot, and see Miss Mattie on the morning of.

Jan. 8 – Took dinner with Joe Whitehead and called at Mr. Rawles to see Miss Mattie, who had no idea I was coming down. The Misses Brittain, Miss Holland, and Miss Mattie and Mollie were all there, and we had a pleasant afternoon – but would have enjoyed it more if only one had been there. Spent night with Joe in Depot and like to froze to death.

Jan. 10 – Called on Miss Mattie and went with the ladies to Mr. Holland's. Had a delightful time with Miss Mattie. She expressed herself as still true to her soldier beau. The past four months were gone over and now pledges exchanged.

Jan. 11 – After breakfast the ladies gave me another interview with Miss Mattie. I bade all good-bye at 10 a.m. without any idea as to when we would meet again – if ever. Met Capt. Webb on cars – he had been down to see Miss Lawrence. Got back to Weldon at 4 p.m. and found Gregory still there. He wanted me to go to Petersburg in search of his goods – particularly shoes. Reached Petersburg at 3 a.m. Learned the good had all been shipped to Weldon on 8<sup>th</sup> so I hurried up and took cars for Weldon, which place I reached at 3:30 p.m.

Jan. 18 – Found we could get off, by loading wagons in box cars – so we took them to pieces and packed up. The whole train was made up for the government – mostly ammunition for Wilmington. Slept on the cars – in one end was the other mules – one end we'uns.

Jan. 19 – Got on very well until we reached Enfield where one car jumped the track. This took three hours – so I went over the pretty little town and got breakfast. Rocky Mount and Wilson were passed in day time. The former is remembered as the place the Yanks raided and burned the depot and R.R. bridge...Reached Goldsboro after night. Slept with the mules one more night in box car – which I do not much like. It got so cold had to shovel dirt in box car – between doors and build a fire – never consulted the mules.

Jan. 20 – All well until we reached Warsaw – the

place the Yanks visited last summer. Reached Wilmington after night – went down town but all stores were closed – never saw so many police in a small town. Slept in box car again – 4<sup>th</sup> night.

Jan. 21 – Unloaded and strolled over town – which is stirring and business like. Met Wm. Adams, Jason Hunt, and Mr. Hold – old acquaintances; Also several of the businessmen of the city I know. Several blockade runners were in port – loading and unloading – mostly foreign vessels – made quite a yankieized appearance. Owing to the species brought in by blockaders – things are higher here than in Richmond and Petersburg. The live oaks are so green and beautiful it seemed as if we had gotten to a warmer region. We learned that Maj. Boggs and Capt. Young’s batty had gone to Smithville 30 miles below at the mouth of the Cape Fear River – so we crossed river in an old flat and took line of march. Saw several boys fishing and they had some fine cats. In 2 miles we crossed Brunswick river, nearly as wide as the Cape Fear. Saw large number of wild ducks – oh for a gun. We camped 5 miles from Wilmington on a small creek – and I was surprised to here the swamps ringing with the clear notes of the little frogs.

### ***On the March in Brunswick County***

Jan. 22 – Sunrise found us on the road and I was soon impressed with the bareness of the land, and the unbroken features of the country. The pines had all been boxed and scraped for turpentine – but seem to have been neglected since the war. Saw many beautiful live oaks – so much prized by ship-builders for making rigs and other angles, of vessels – the irregularity of the growth enabling them to procure any shape – with but little trimming. Saw a party of hunters “driving” for deer – learned a good many could be found in the swamps. The grass-hoppers were seen in several places. Reached Fort Anderson about noon – but had no time to examine it. It is on the south bank of Cape Fear. – about half way between Wilmington and Smithville, which we reached about 3 p.m. – found all the headquarters in good health and spirits and comfortably quartered in barracks. The barracks and log house are U.S. property, and were garrisoned by a small force in times of peace. In front there is now quite a formidable battery. From the

barracks we had a fine view of Bald Head Island – on which stands a lofty light house, but from which no light glares to guide the troubled “blockade-runner.” On this point the Confederates are constructing another formidable battery – about 3 miles from this point. Fort Caswell is on the point of Oaks Island – opposite Smithville – 1 ½ miles distant and commands the entrance to the main channel of the river. This old U.S. Fort has been much improved and strengthened. Fort Campbell is about 1 mile south of it – on some island, and was built for the protection of Smithville – for prior to its construction gunboats could get near enough Smithville to shell the town. Several blockages are known in sight – off Fort Caswell. The Advance is also in plain view – beached off Fort Caswell. Her cargo has been all gotten off and it believed the vessel may be saved. I hope so, for she has been of invaluable service to our State, and our noble governor – Zeb Vance – richly merits the love and confidence which a united people have so cheerfully given him for his untiring energy to cloth our soldiers and administer to the wants of the people of the state generally. Smithville is an old town – the county seat of Brunswick – and was once quite a fashionable summer seaside resort. The house generally are old and have an ancient appearance; but the live oaks make it a pretty place. But little imagination is necessary to picture the pleasure that was enjoyed beneath the cool shade of those stately oaks in the spring days of “Auld Lang Syne,” when the soft rays of the silver moon were reflected from the clear blue water of the harbor – upon eyes that spoke words of love in language more forcible than articulate words could command. But this is not time for reveries – as I learn we are to move further south of here in the morning – so with the return of reason to the stern fact that I am a soldier – not a lover or pleasure seeker – comes – (what a soldier never suffers for) a good appetite. So I bought a quart of oysters and made camp – where I soon cooked all and ate half – Jess Tharton the balance.

*To be continued.*

### **Grovely Plantation**

In a deed from Maurice Moore to John Baptiste Ashe, dated December 5, 1727, in which Moore is described as “of Bath County,” he conveys 640

acres on the north side of Town Creek, "about five miles above ye Old Town, commonly known by the name of Spring Garden," granted to said Moore, June 20, 1725. The name was afterwards changed around 1800 by some of Mr. Ashe's successors to Grovely. Dr. John D. Bellamy, of Wilmington purchased Grovely in the mid 1840's.

Grovely was located on Town Creek in Brunswick County, now a present-day Brunswick Forest development near Leland. When purchased by Dr. Bellamy the plantation had in addition to the manor house many other buildings, including overseers' houses, barns, and stables. The manor house was built in Colonial times and was a very substantial and comfortable structure. Dr. Bellamy continued to purchase adjoining tracks of land to keep settlers from encroaching too near.

The Plantation consisted of nearly ten-thousand acres, twenty-four hundred acres of which was cleared and cultivated land. All worked by enslaved workers living in their cabins on "The Line." Near the manor house were a dairy and the turkey, peafowl, and chicken yards, also large orchards and vineyards. Dr. Bellamy generally ran over fifty mules and plows; he raised from six to eight hundred head of cattle and a like number of sheep and never killed less than fifteen hundred hogs annually with which he used to feed his slaves in Brunswick and Columbus County and the slaves of his plantation in South Carolina and the Bellamy Mansion in Wilmington. Having no rice fields on Grovely, Bellamy bought as much as three thousand bushels of rough rice from Colonel Thomas C. Miller at Orton Plantation. He raised wheat, oats, corn, peanuts, and other grains and his barns were always filled to overflowing.

Many slaves were exposed to Christianity on the plantation grounds. The Rev. Morgan C. Turrentine, a Wesleyan Methodist preacher from Alabama and employed by Dr. Bellamy, held his services on each alternate Sundays for the slaves at their quarters where their infants were baptized and marriage ceremonies were held and when they died he performed their funeral. "There was never a more attentive religious audience, than composed of the slaves, nor have I ever heard more stirring music than their native spirituals," quoted John D.

Bellamy, Jr. However, on Sundays that the white minister did not come, they frequently had their own preachers, and it was at such times that the services became extremely emotional, having the mornings and shouting's that so often occur at camp meetings.

During the week, the boys and girls held their dances every night, having among themselves negro musicians who played the banjo and guitar very well. Loud and boisterous singing and dancing could be heard for miles and often continued until twelve o'clock. With so much innocent merriment and joy, both young and old slaves were very content with their lives. During the Civil War, not one of the slaves on Grovely Plantation ran away, but remained happily there until the war was over. Even then they were permitted to continue occupying their old dwellings without charge until they started purchasing homes elsewhere as they began to realize their freedom. Many remained for years and were hired to cultivate the soil until a great fire raged and swept over the ten-thousand acre tract, destroying every negro cabin, barn, every loom-house and spinning-house, every overseer's dwelling, carpenter and cooper shops and even the manor house. No building of any kind was left on the whole plantation.

After Dr. John D. Bellamy's death in 1896 his wife requested the plantation be sold and equally divided among all heirs. Not being on the highway and the last few miles of a bad road made the land undesirable though it was wonderfully fertile and was home to much wildlife. Being on Town Creek which empties into the Cape Fear River much of the produce and wood had been brought to Wilmington on flats. After the fire a small cottage was built and occupied by the guard or keeper for the plantation. As there was no offer, even at a sacrifice, the family thought best to sell off the valuable timber from which more was realized and divided.

*Source: Will, New Hanover County Deed Book, Book C, Page 3. "A Coat of Many Colors: Religion and Society Along the Cape Fear River," By Walter Conser. "History of New Hanover County," By Alfred Moore Waddell. "Memoirs of an Octogenarian," By John D. Bellamy, Jr.*

*“Back with the Tide” Memoirs of Ellen Douglas Bellamy*

**VALUABLE PLANTATION**  
**For Rent or Lease.**

**T**HE SUBSCRIBER offers for rent, for one or five years, his plantation on Town Creek, ten miles below Wilmington. 500 acres are cleared and fenced, well adapted to the production of corn, cotton, wheat, potatoes, &c., and a part is excellent ground-pea land. In addition to which there is a

**Large Orchard of Fruit Trees,**  
Bearing large quantities of fruit.

On the place there are two framed dwelling houses, large barns, stables, &c. Also, seventeen framed houses for laborers, now occupied by freedmen, most of whom may probably be hired to work on the place.

The proximity of this plantation to Wilmington, the easy approach by large flats at all times to its several landings, insuring shipments to any point, offers inducements to enterprising men, especially those familiar with hired labor, that few places possess. Address Dr. JOHN D. BELLAMY, Wilmington, N. C., or call on him at his city residence.

Dec. 5th 237-s

*The Wilmington Herald, December 5, 1865*

**Obituary of “Hattie James Henry Galloway”**



With the passing of Mrs. Hattie Galloway, Brunswick County lost one of its most beloved and most colorful residents.

Mrs. Galloway had a premonition that she would not last the year, but her friends and family were convinced she would live long beyond her 76 years she had attained. She was physically active and mentally alert throughout her life. Her intimates

referred to her as “76 years young” rather than as “76 years old”. She was, in a way a victim of Hurricane Connie and Diane. Even though she, herself, was so sure that her end would come in 1955 that she outlined funeral and burial plans to her family even to the extent of naming the honorary and active pallbearers, nevertheless her daughter and sons were sure she would round out many more years.

When Hurricane Connie threatened, she left her home at Supply to be with her son, First Deputy Sheriff Marion Leon Galloway, and his family at their home in Shallotte. There, awaiting the approaching storm, she fell and fractured her leg. An ambulance took her through the storm to the hospital in Wilmington. The fracture was reduced; her foot and lower leg placed in a cast. In a few days she was permitted to return home.

Tuesday night, she was in considerable pain. Wednesday it was more intense. The Deputy Sheriff became alarmed. He located Dr. Rourk, Mrs. Galloway’s physician and close personal friend. Dr. Rourk found her leg swollen and angry. The cast prohibited close examination. He ordered her returned immediately to the hospital. There, removal of the cast revealed advanced gangrenous condition. The blood poison had gone to far.

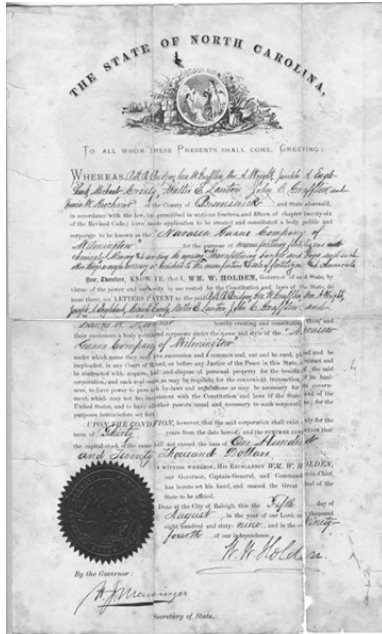
In a hurricane, she had suffered in the fall which presaged her end. In another approaching hurricane, she awaited the inevitable end. It came in the early hours of Thursday morning, as Diane raged through Wilmington and battered against the hospital in which she calmly accepted the fate which she had foretold months before.

As requested, funeral services were held at her home in Supply, at 3:30 in the afternoon following her death, and burial was in the family plot at Mt. Olive Baptist Church Cemetery.

Also according to her plan and request, the active pallbearers were Archibald Henry, Henry Eugene Gilbert, Charlie Taylor, Buren Greer, A.P. Henry, Jr., and Vincent McKeithan and honorary pallbearers were Dr. M.H. Rourk, Dr. R.H. Holden, Jewel McKeithan, H.C. Stone, Hobson Kirby, Fred Mintz, Guy McKeithan and Alton Bennett.

## Navassa Guano Company Charter, August 5, 1869

This charter established the Navassa Guano Company of Wilmington, North Carolina for the purposes of manufacturing fertilizer and chemicals, mining and working the necessary ores, and such other activities necessary to the manufacture and sale of fertilizers and chemicals.



The Navassa Guano factory was built in 1869 at Meares' Bluff on the northwest branch of the Cape Fear River five miles from Wilmington. This location was chosen because the geographic features allowed the construction, in 1867, of a railroad bridge across the Cape Fear at what would become Navassa. This allowed several railroad companies,

the Atlantic Coast Line, the Seaboard Airline, the Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta, and the Carolina Central, to connect Wilmington with numerous points throughout the southeast. Members of Wilmington's business community realized the advantages of constructing a fertilizer factory on the railroad.

Soon after the Navassa Guano works were built a village grew up around it which, in 1885, was named Navassa by the U.S. Postal Service. The modern Town of Navassa was incorporated in 1977 and is located about a mile west of the original village.

The Navassa Guano Company of Wilmington was organized with capital stock of \$200,000 and, at its first meeting, elected Robert Rufus Bridgers president, Donald MacRae (1825-1892) treasurer, and Christopher Louis Grafflin (1823-1887) superintendent of the works. These men held those posi-

tions until at least 1887 by which time, Col. William Lord DeRosset (1832-1910) was added as superintendent of agencies and Charles Eugene Borden (1861-1913) was the company's chemist. By 1887, the Navassa Guano complex consisted of twenty-four buildings with a floor space covering five acres with each building dedicated to a particular aspect of the manufacture of acid phosphate fertilizer. In the late 1880s, around 1,000 people in the Wilmington area derived income, either directly or indirectly, from the Navassa Guano Company. In 1890, Donald MacRae had become president of the Navassa Guano Company, Donald MacRae, Jr. (1861-1928) served as secretary-treasurer, Charles Eugene Borden as superintendent of the works, and Col. William Lord DeRosset was superintendent of agencies.

The company was named after the island of Navassa which is located in the West Indies; south of Cuba, east of Jamaica, and west of Hispaniola. The island was claimed by the United States in 1857 under the auspices of the Guano Islands Act of 1856 (48 U.S.C. Ch. 8 §§ 1411-1419) due to its deposits of Guano phosphate, a high quality organic fertilizer that was extensively used in American agriculture during the 19th century.

Because of its prime location with rail and river access and close proximity to downtown Wilmington, the village of Navassa was home to various chemical, meat-packing and petroleum operations. As many as four now-defunct fertilizer companies employed more than 4,000 workers at one time. In addition to Navassa Guano, Armour Fertilizer Works built a plant in 1919, Royster Fertilizer came in 1927, and Smith-Douglas Fertilizer in 1946.

Navassa Guano Co. sold its property to Virginia Chemical Co. in 1927 and the operation was eventually taken over by Estech General Chemical Co.

**Source: New Hanover County Cape Fear Museum. Navassa: From Guano to Creosote, by Mark Hibbs.**

## Roach / Lancaster Cemetery

The Roach / Lancaster Cemetery, located in Var-

namtown was given an annual cleaning on December 5, 2018. The maintenance crew put together by David Holden included David Holden, Craig Holden, Dave Lewis.

The day was spent trimming grass, removing limbs that were overhanging the fence, and improving the access road. The cemetery had previously been bush-hogged.

### My Thoughts

While cleaning the Roach-Lancaster Cemetery my thoughts were how to get others in the county, especially the younger people, interested in improving our many unkempt cemeteries. My thought was the Scouts (all forms, Boy, Girl, Sea Scouts, etc.).

There have been cemetery improvements all over the United States conducted as Eagle Scout projects such as the Leonard Cemetery in downtown Shallotte. If you have any contact with a Scout member please get in touch with them or their leader for such a worthwhile project.

### Odds and Ends

At Smithville last evening (January 15, 1883), while a lighter (small river flat used for transporting freight from ships to shore, etc.) was loading the barge "Iona," which lay in the stream, a small boat alongside the lighter, containing ten men, was capsized and all of the occupants were precipitated

into the river. They were all saved however, save one, Lewis Dudley, who was drowned. Jim Betts is missing, but we learned that he was picked up by a boat from the Norwegian barge "Ovarodd," and is probably safe.

*From: "The Daily Review," Wilmington, NC, issued dated January 16, 1883*

Brunswick Convention – At a meeting of the Democrats and Conservatives of Brunswick County held yesterday, May 21, 1874, at Mr. Thomas McKeithan's place, in Shallotte Township, J.N. Bennett was nominated for the House of Representatives, M.C. Guthrie for Register of Deeds, Dr. F.W. Potter for Superior Court Clerk, J.H. Thees for County Treasurer, Asa Ross for Surveyor, Julius Taylor for Coroner, and Robert W. Wood-sides, D.S. Butler, William Styron and two others, whose names we could not learn for County Commissioners.

*From: Wilmington Weekly Journal, May 22, 1874.*

### Area Events

**Fort Caswell Rifle Range** - Their next event will be held on Saturday April 6, 2019 at the rifle pit located on Foxfire Trace in the Caswell Dunes subdivision, Caswell Beach. A continuation of the Roll Calling for all Brunswick County WWI Veterans will take place.

## ***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

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

Email: [davelewis@atmc.net](mailto:davelewis@atmc.net)

**CALENDER OF EVENTS**

BCHS Meetings: February 11, 2019  
May 13, 2019  
August 12, 2019  
November 11, 2019

*Happy Valentines Day*

BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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