

**HISTORICAL TOUR**

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themselves along the river and in the following year were joined by other Barbadians. At that time the Carolinas were divided into three sections. The middle county, called Clarendon, extended from the west bank of the Cape Fear River southward to the Cape Romain and westward to the Pacific Ocean. Sir John Yeamans was appointed governor of Clarendon County as well as of Craven County to the south. Eventually about 800 persons were settled along the Cape Fear with the settlement, known as Charleston, located at the mouth of Town Creek. At that time the Cape Fear was generally referred to as the Clarendon River.

Because of Indian hostility and the neglect of the sponsors, the efforts of these colonists were futile, and in 1667 the settlement was abandoned. Several years later the Lords Proprietors succeeded in founding a new and permanent Charlestown to the southward, at the confluence of the Ashley and Cooper Rivers.

**Pleasant Oaks Plantation**

On the south bank of Town Creek from Old Town, Pleasant Oaks Plantation was for many years owned by F. M. Adams, chairman of the board of directors of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. It is now the property of Hargrove Bellamy of Wilmington. Its past history is not altogether clear but it is now the show place among farms in Brunswick County. Its several miles of driveway and two beautiful fresh water ponds are bordered with azaleas.

**Orton Plantation**

Among the three earliest grants on the Cape Fear, made on June 3, 1725, was one for 1500 acres to Maurice Moore. On December 11, 1728, Maurice sold 500 of these acres to his brother, Roger, of Berkeley County in South Carolina. Orton House stands with-

in the bounds of this 500-acre tract. The lower central portion of the house was built by "King" Roger some time after 1734 and was used as a residence by him until his death in 1751. He bequeathed the property which by that time was 250 acres, to his son, William. Orton passed out of possession of the Moore family about the time of the American Revolution, and has greatly increased in area during the intervening years. About 1840 the upper story and the columns were added to the house, and about 1910 the two wings were added by James Sprunt, who owned the property at that time. Orton is still in the possession of the Sprunt family, and the house is used as a private residence.

Within the confines of present day Orton Plantation are located two old plantations which have lost their identities. Kendall Plantation was the home of General Robert Howe. Lilliput Plantation was originally the home of Eleazer Allen, whose wife was the sister of Mrs. Roger Moore. At the time of the Revolution, Lilliput was owned by Governor William Tryon, and was confiscated along with the property of other loyalists. Since Tryon did not acquire this property until a few months prior to moving into the palace at New Bern, it is doubtful that he ever lived at Lilliput.

**Russellborough**

Russellborough was a plantation of 55 acres which adjoined Brunswick to the north. The property was originally part of Orton Plantation, but the small tract was conveyed in 1751 to John Russell, captain of H. M. Sloop Scorpion, which was stationed in the Cape Fear River at that time. Capt. Russell began the construction of a residence on the property but died before its completion. In 1758 Arthur Dobbs, the governor of North

Carolina, acquired the property. He completed the structure and lived there until his death in 1765. He died in this residence on March 28, 1765, while preparing to return to England for a visit. Russellborough then passed to his son, Edward Brice Dobbs.

William Tryon succeeded Dobbs as governor and appears to have established residence at Russellborough shortly after his predecessor's death. In 1765-1776 Russellborough was the scene of a number of incidents connected with the dramatic resistance to the Stamp Act of the people of the Lower Cape Fear. In 1767 Tryon purchased the property and continued in residence there until he moved to the nearly completed palace at New Bern in 1770. The following year Tryon sold Russellborough to William Dry, the Collector of Customs at Port Brunswick, who changed the name to Belfort. Dry was an ardent supporter of the move for independence and as a result, his home was burned by the British when they invaded the river in 1876 under Lord Cornwallis and General Clinton.

Russellborough House was a two-story frame structure, with the interior divided into four rooms, up stairs and down stairs. A ten foot porch encircled the house at each level. There was a number of adjacent outbuildings in addition to the main house.

**St. Philips Church**

St. Philips Church was begun in 1754 and completed in 1768 only after great trials and difficulties. Not the least of these was the constant shortage of funds. Among the many prominent men who aided and encouraged its construction were the governors, Arthur Dobbs and William Tryon. Both made financial contributions, and Dobbs promised to make it His Majesty's Chapel in North Carolina upon its completion. Unfortunately, Dobbs died before it was completed and it is not known whether it was ever actually so designated.

**Brunswick Town**

Maurice Moore, who was so instrumental in the permanent settlement of the Cape Fear, also was the founder of its first town, Brunswick. Plans for the town were completed as early as June, 1726 when Moore sold two lots to Cornelius Harnett, the father of the Revolutionary hero of the same name. However, there is no evidence of a dwelling in the town prior to June, 1728. Brunswick was the trading center for the new settlement and upon the establishment of New Hanover County in 1729, the village became the county seat. Newton, later to become Wilmington, was founded about 1732, and because of its more central and protected location, soon overshadowed Brunswick as a center of trade. When Wilmington was incorporated in 1740 all governmental offices, which had been located at Brunswick, were transferred to Wilmington. However, a shoal in the river at the mouth of Town Creek, prevented the passage of large vessels, and, as a result, practically all naval stores, the principal staple of the Cape Fear Region, were shipped out of Brunswick. By the time of the American Revolution more naval stores, in the form of pitch, tar and turpentine were shipped out of Brunswick than from any other port in the British Empire. When one considers the essential nature of these products during the days of wooden sailing vessels, the importance of the port is obvious.

When Brunswick County was established in 1744 the village again became a County Seat and remained so until 1775 when governmental functions were moved to the comparative safety of Lockwoods Folly. Between 1757 and 1776 Brunswick was one of the eight borough towns of North Carolina, which entitled it to send a representative to the provincial legislature.

In 1776 Brunswick's deep water harbor became a liability rather than an asset. For the same reason that large merchant ships could gain access to the town, so also could the British warships. When the British invaded the river in 1775-1776, the people of the Brunswick abandoned the town and fled to Wilmington and other points. Much of the village was burned by the British at that time. The war also brought an end to the British naval stores market and so Brunswick was never again occupied by more than three or four families. After about 1825 it apparently was completely abandoned.

Brunswick was never a large town but its population of approximately 250 to 300 was not insignificant for that time. Physically the town stretched along the river for about half a mile and back from the river about a quarter-mile. Within this area were located about 40 dwellings, along with various shops and other buildings. The church stood at the western edge of the town, about midway between its northern and southern limits.

Possibly the most dramatic incident in the life of Brunswick took place in 1748 when the town was captured by a large group of Spaniards who entered the river on September 4, 1748. Two days later the inhabitants, aided by seamen on friendly vessels in the harbor, recaptured the town, but only after great damage had been done. One of the Spanish vessels was blown up and the surviving Spaniards sailed away on the remaining privateer. The invaders were not pirates but privateers, legitimately engaged in assisting Spain in war against England.

Funds derived from the sale of slaves and goods captured from the Spaniards were applied, in part, to the cost of constructing St. Philips Church in Brunswick and St. James Church in Wilmington.

**Fort Anderson**

A short distance to the northeast of old St. Philips Church, earthen breast works were to be seen. These works are part of Fort Anderson, which was constructed by the Confederate States of America. Fort Anderson, which covers the northern section of old Brunswick Town, was constructed in 1863 and saw action following the fall of Fort Fisher, which protected the entrance to the river several miles downstream. After the fall of that important fort, the Federal forces began to move up toward Wilmington, but Fort Anderson stood in the way. As a result, a number of war vessels proceeded upstream and bombed Fort Anderson. At the same time a large land force moved up the west side of the river. Due to the dangers and difficulties of a frontal attack, a detachment of Federal troops was sent around Orton Pond to the westward in order to outflank Fort Anderson. The Confederates, receiving word of the maneuver and

izing the futility of further fighting such an overwhelming force, quietly withdrew the fort under cover of the morning darkness on February 19, 1865.

**Fort Johnson**

during the colonial period the islands, particularly those bastions of St. Augustine, were a constant source of fear to the people of the Lower Cape Fear. In the face of this danger, the entrance to the Cape Fear River remained unguarded for a number of years until the founding of the settlement of Governor Gabriel Johnston and of the crisis brought about by the outbreak of the Revolution. In 1745 provided Johnston's Fort" be built at the mouth of the Cape Fear River. The exact location was chosen by a committee, which included Governor Johnston, Roger Moore, Eleazer Allen, Edward Wiley and others.

The construction of Fort Johnson was the subject of charges of graft and inefficiency and it was not until 1764 that the installation was completed. It was never manned to varying extent from 1750 on. The size of the garrison probably never exceeded 50 men, and usually was composed of James Moore and Robert Lee, who in later years became generals in the Revolutionary war. Fort Johnson was burned by the Americans in 1775 to prevent its use by the British. It was rebuilt some years after the Revolution, and was occupied by Federal forces at the outbreak of the war between the States.

**Southport**

The pilots who guided vessels by the treacherous shoals of the Cape Fear found it convenient to work to establish residence at Fort Johnson. It was this fact, among others, that was responsible for the incorporation of the settlement in 1792. The village was called Smithville, but its name was later changed to Southport.

In 1808 the seat of government of Brunswick County was transferred to Smithville from Lockwoods Folly, where it has been located since its removal from Brunswick in 1778.

**ORDERLY FREELAND**

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pedestrian.

Death was attributed to head injuries. Funeral services are being conducted Wednesday, 3 p. m., from the Britain Baptist Church, with Rev. Gaston Hester officiating. Burial will be in the Inman cemetery.

Surviving are two sons, Glenn Roy of the Navy in Newport, R. I., and Dozier Guy of the Army in Fort Eustis, Va.; three daughters, Mrs. Lella Evans of Baltimore, Md., Mrs. Minnie Lee Evans of Freeland, and Mrs. Ina Bennett of Supply; two brothers, Hiram M. Simmons of Shallotte and Allen Simmons of Bolton,

two sisters, Mrs. William Ezzell of Route 4, Whiteville, and Mrs. Mandy Edwards of Fayetteville and seven grandchildren.

**MEMBERSHIP OF**  
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ter of space required for the

school bus maintenance program and negotiations will be commenced with the Shallotte National Guard for the purpose of reclaiming all the space in the county garage by July 1. Plans were also made for a program of visitation by members of the board of education, the board of county commissioners and local committeemen on April 30, May 7 and May 11.

**76TH BIRTHDAY**

Mrs. R. T. Woodside celebrated her 76th birthday Friday of last week.

# - NOTICE -

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election  
WILL BE HELD AT SHALLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL,  
ON SATURDAY, MAY 30th, 1953

For the purpose of determining whether there shall be levied a Special Tax, not to exceed 15c on the \$100.00 valuation, on all property, real and personal, owned by white owners, and located in the Shallotte District, for the purpose of supplementing the funds for the nine months public school term for Shallotte School, and more specifically to be used in the Music and Physical Education Departments.

All white persons who are otherwise qualified to vote, and who reside in the said school district shall be eligible to vote in this election, providing they are registered for the said election.

THE BOOKS FOR REGISTRATION WILL BE OPEN AT THE  
SHALLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL ON - - - -

Saturday, May 2nd, Saturday, May 9th, and  
Saturday, May 16, from 9 a. m. to 6:00 p. m.

SAT., MAY 23 Will Be CHALLENGE DAY

BE SURE TO REGISTER ON ONE OF THE ABOVE DAYS. IF YOU DO NOT REGISTER DURING THIS SPECIAL REGISTRATION YOU CANNOT VOTE!!

R. L. MILLIKEN, Chairman  
BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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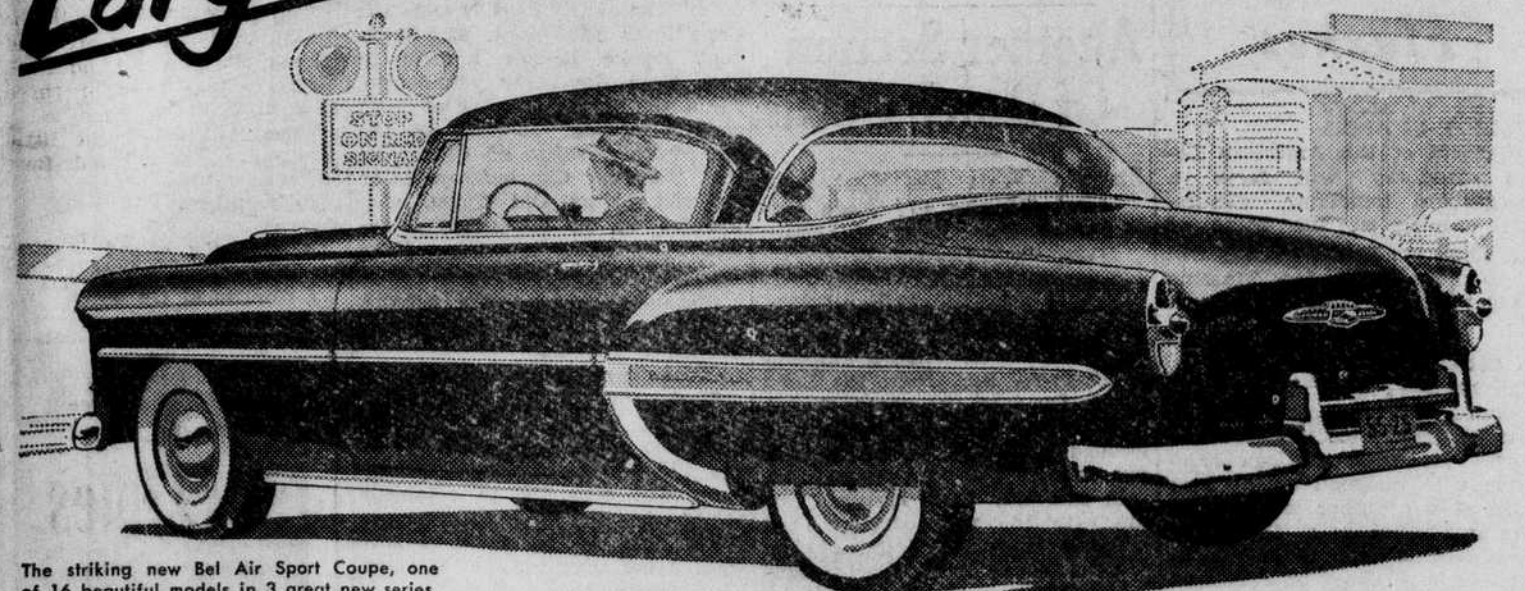
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