Brunswick, Now Only Ruins, Once Home Of N. C. Great, Seat Of Colonies' Resistance

One of the strange facts relating to American history is that the historians have largely overlooked the part played in winning independence by the citizens of a now vanished North Carolina town which was founded in 1725 and flourished for half a century, and which during its existence furnished American patriots who resisted with arms British tyranny ten years befoee the opening guns of the American Revolution sounded at Lexington in 1775.

This town, laid out by Maurice Moore, son of Governor James Moore of South Carolina. in 1725 and named Brunswick in honor of the reigning family, was located on the western banks of the Cape Fear River a little more than midway of the sea from the present city of Wilmington. All that remains of Brunswick today are the ruins of old St. Phillip's church and a few church graves, but underneath the tall pines and amid the dense undergrowth which have grown up on the site of the old town still walk the ghosts of American patriots whose deeds for freedom were no less great than others which are more celebrated in history but no less stirring in fact.

Brunswick's claim to fame was not its size. It never reached larger proportions than those of a small town with a white population of not more than 400. But there was not then, and there has not been since, a town of the same size which contained within its population so many men who were to distinguish themselves in both the civil and the military life of the colonies.

Home Of Great

It was the home of three generals of the Revolutionary War, three royal governors, three acting governors, two judges and three chief justices of the Supreme Court, an attorney general and a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. In the cemetery of old St. Phillip's, once His Majesty's chapel, are the graves of Benjamin Smith, one-time governor of North Carolina and Alfred Moore, the United States Supreme Court justice.

The first armed resistance to the British was not in Massachusetts in 1775, but 10 years earlier on the banks of the Cape Fear at Brunswick. It was November, 1765, after the enactment of the Stamp Act, and the 20-gun sloop of war Diligence had dropped anchor at the Port of Brunswick. Aboard her was a cargo of stamped paper, but ashore were excited and aroused citizens who were determined that the stamps would not be unloaded. Armed militia of Brunswick and New Hanover counties under the command of Col. Hugh Waddell and Col. John Ashe had assembled at Brunswick, and Captain Phipps of the Diligence was notified that unloading the stamps would be resisted with armed force if necessary. Prudently, Captain Phipps let the stamps remain aboard.

Tells Of Event

In his biography of Hugh Waddell, a descendant, Alfred Moore Waddell, quotes Honorable George Davis saying of this event:

"This was more than ten years before the Declaration of Independence, and more than nine before the Battle of Lexington, and nearly eight before the Boston 'Tea Party.' The destruction of the tea was done at night by men in disguise. And history blazons it, and New England boasts of it, and the fame of it is world-wide. But this other act, more gallant and more daring, done in open day by well known men, with arms in their hands, and under the King's flag—who remembers it, or who tells of it?"

Brunswick was said to be the first port on the continent where the British seized vessels for failure to comply with Stamp Act regulations, and Brunswick was the last place on the continent where the people would submit without a fight.

Overlooked By Historians

This episode in American colonial history is largely overlooked by the historians in favor of events in New England.

For four days during 1747, the town was held by Spaniards while residents of the Cape Fear fought furiously to recover it. On the fourth day, one of the Spanish vessels in the harbor was blown up and the others were driven off. Spoils from the wrecked ship were appropriated for the use of St. Phillips church in Brunswick and St. James' in Wilmington.

Brunswick was laid out in 1725 on 320 acres of land given by Maurice Moore. Associated with Maurice in establishing the settlement were his brothers, Nathaniel and Roger, the latter being "King" Roger, who built Orton on the Cape Fear two miles above Brunswick.

Built Big Trade

Within five years, Brunswick had built a great trade and boasted of a number of merchants and rich planters. In 1731, 42 vessels carrying valuable cargoes sailed from the port. The original book of entries and clearances at the custom house at Brunswick shows that from 1773-1776 over 300 cargo vessels entered and cleared the port. Incoming ships brought a wide assortment of necessities for colonial life, while outgoing vessels were usually loaded with lumber, staves, tar, indigo, rice, corn, wheat and tobacco. North Carolina Scotch Highlanders remember that among this colorful procession of brigantines moving up the Cape Fear were Scotch vessels bringing many Scotch settlers to the Cape Fear, among them being the famous Flora Macdonald.

Planned Revolution

Governors Johnston, Dobbs, and Tryon—in the order named— had their residence at Brunswick, and the assembly of the province convened there on numerous occasions. Here also lived Major General Robert Howe, North Carolina's most distinguished contribution to the American Revolution. There are those who contend that the whole plan of the Revolution was conceived by Howe, Cornelium Harnett, Jr., and Josiah Quincy of Massachusetts, when the latter visited the Cape Fear in 1773.

Generals John Ashe and James Moore were other distinguished contributions to American Independence while on the civil side, there were Cornelius Harnett, Jr., Judges Maurice Moore and Alfred Moore, Attorney General MacLaine, and Chief Justices Allen, Hasell and Smith.

Brunswick gave promise of becoming one of the colony's leading commercial centers. It was loacted near the mouth of the largest navigable river in the province, and was the only town in that section. Early hopes of growing prosperity are borne out by the record of commerce at the port.

Jealousy Causes Its Decline

On November 2, 1734, Governor Johnston took the oath of office at Brunswick. During his administration, many settlers arrived, bringing slaves and retainers. Upon the valuable land which they acquired they prospered. Cape Fear society dispensed culture and hospitality, with the family of Moores heading the social register. It was partially at least this dominance of the Moores, who were known as "The Family," that led to the decline of Brunswick in favor of Wilmington as the seat of government and chief commercial port. In December 1739, the county court levied a poll tax of five shillings to build a courthouse and jail at Brunswick, but in line with the determination of Governor Johnston, who had had Wilmington made a township in 1736, the tax money was used to erect a courthouse and jail at Wilmington instead. Johnston was determined to destroy Brunswick and the dominating influence of the Moores. Subsequent tense commercial rivalry between Brunswick and Wilmington resulted in the gradual decline of Brunswick.

Shift To Wilmington

In 1761 at Brunswick, George III was proclaimed king in the presence of Governor Dobbs, the council and an assemblage of leading Cape Fear planters. The proclamation ceremonies were repeated the following day in Wilmington. In 1765 when the Stamp Act resistance occurred at Brunswick, Wilmington had about twice as many inhabitants as Brunswick, and when the Revolution began about three times as many. The gradual decline continued until Brunswick ceased to exist as a town. But so strong was the attachment of oldtime Cape Fear residents that they continued to bury their dead for sometime afterwards in the churchyard of old St. Phillip's abandoned Brunswick.

Hidden among moss-hung pines and dense undergrowth, the melancholy ruins remained for almost a hundred years after abandonment as a town. Beyond the bluff swept the wide, historic river, while ocean breezes from the nearby sea sang a requiem through the pines.

When the Civil War came, Fort Anderson, a great earthworks fortification, was built on the site and enclosed within one of its arms the walls of old St. Phillip's. Hostile shells fell near, but the walls, as if miraculously, escaped damage. Today they stand amid a newgrown forest, and together with the tombs in the churchyard, are all that is left of once proud Brunswick. Nearby is replendent Orton, still reflecting the splendour of Cape Fear life in Colonial North Carolina when the Port of Brunswick gave high promise of becoming one of the Eastern Seaboard's chief commercial centers and permanent seat of government for North Carolina.

Freezer Locker Plant Here Is 87th In State

When the freezer locker plant of Franklin Frozen Foods, Inc., opens here Saturday, it will be the 87th such plant in operation in North Carolina, according to Oscar Ledford, manager of the local plant.

How fast the cold-pack industry has grown is illustrated, he pointed out, by the fact that North Carolina had only two such plants in 1941, and only 45 in 1946.

Minnesota leads the Union's 48 states with a total of 700, an average of eight per county. The total for the nation today is more than 9,000.

The local plant manager said that the large variety of foods which could be processed by the freezing method was undoubtedly one of the chief reasons for the rapid growth of freezer locker plants throughout the United States.

According to the National Quick Frozen Foods Association more than 400 foods have been cold-packed successfully. Among these are vegetables ranging from artichoke to zucchini, 47 fruits, including everything in the fruit line from apples to zapote, and all kinds of fowl and fish.

Charles Wurm, national association president, in a recent article predicted that the industry which had its beginning nearly 40 years ago, when some fruit growers packaged some berries, would have more than 3,000 frozen food processors, 12,000 distributors, and 40,000 locker plants by 1950.

BIRTHS

A daughter, Phyllis Almira, was born October 7 to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Cabe at their home, Franklin, Route 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Roland, of Charlotte, formerly of Franklin, have announced the birth of a daughter, Rita Yvonne, at the Presbyterian hospital in Charlotte September 9.

Ann Lyn, a daughter, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cooper, of Franklin, October 10 at the Mission hospital in Asheville.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe T. Tyler have announced the birth of a son, Gary Jesse, at their home in East Franklin October 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Moore, of the Cullasaja community, have announced the birth of a daughter, Betty Jean, at the Angel clinic October 5.

PLAN RUMMAGE SALE

The Business Girls' circle of the Franklin Presbyterian church will hold a rummage sale Saturday, October 18, in front of Rankin Square.

THREE MACON STUDENTS

Mars Hill (Special) — Three students from Macon county are enrolled at Mars Hill college this fall. These are: Sidney Jean Barker of Nantahala; Mary Frances Dalrymple and Annie Sue Conley of Franklin.

Fifty-two of the country's colleges and universities have naval R. O. T. C. units.

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"a cold day in August"

For generations people have said "it'll be a cold day in August", before something happens. Meaning, of course, that it never will happen at all.

But that expression is out of date now.

For it's always a cold day, in August or any other month in the year, down at the new plant of

Franklin Frozen Foods, Inc.

No matter what the weather, their cold-pack processing will quickly freeze your meats or vegetables or fruits—and keep them frozen until you are ready to use them.

Mr. Whitmire and Mr. Ledford have erected a modern, scientifically planned, well equipped plant, and we are happy to offer our

CONGRATULATIONS

Many of the Lumber, Tile, and Plumbing items for the new plant were supplied by

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They've done a splendid job, under difficult building conditions, and have a plant that we all are proud of.

It was our pleasure to be able to supply the roofing, of Wheeling Channel Drain Metal.

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