

Brunswick County's Role In The American Revolution

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this spurred an ongoing controversy about the location of a courthouse and eventually led to four, then six voting districts in the county.

Gathering enough children for a school, within a reasonable distance, was a problem, so education was almost entirely a private matter for the affluent, who could hire tutors.

In the same way, churches suffered. Religious activity, such as it was, centered in Brunswick Town,

with the spiritual life revolving around the Church of England, the state-supported church. When Brunswick County came into being, however, there was no minister in residence at Brunswick Town; one arrived in 1764, only to leave a year later.

Although ostensibly an Anglican county in an Anglican province, there was little evidence that Brunswick County people truly adhered to the Church of England. St. Phillips Episcopal Church in Brunswick

Town, whose construction was authorized in 1745 legislation, was not completed until 1768. Disappointing attendance of less than 20 was reported at the few services held there.

A minister noted in 1742 that half the white residents of the county were "dissenters" (not members of the Anglican church), but in 1762 another man of the cloth insisted there were no dissenters except a few poor fishermen's families, and he hoped "this frolic will

soon dwindle away."

It didn't. The dissension came in the form of "new light" Baptists, who became increasingly numerous. Baptists far outnumber Episcopalians in 20th century Brunswick County.

Politically, Brunswick County came through the War for Independence with a good share of independence in regard to government and voting. There was no partisan politics until the 1790s, although Federalists were associated with the

wealthy and business interests and a strong central government, while Republicans were associated with the masses of people and states' rights.

This was to change quickly, as Brunswick Town resumed its life, new towns sprang into being and county citizens fought over the location of a courthouse. The fishing industry gradually rivalled the growing of cotton and tobacco and Brunswick County moved into the 19th century.

AT SEASIDE CHURCH

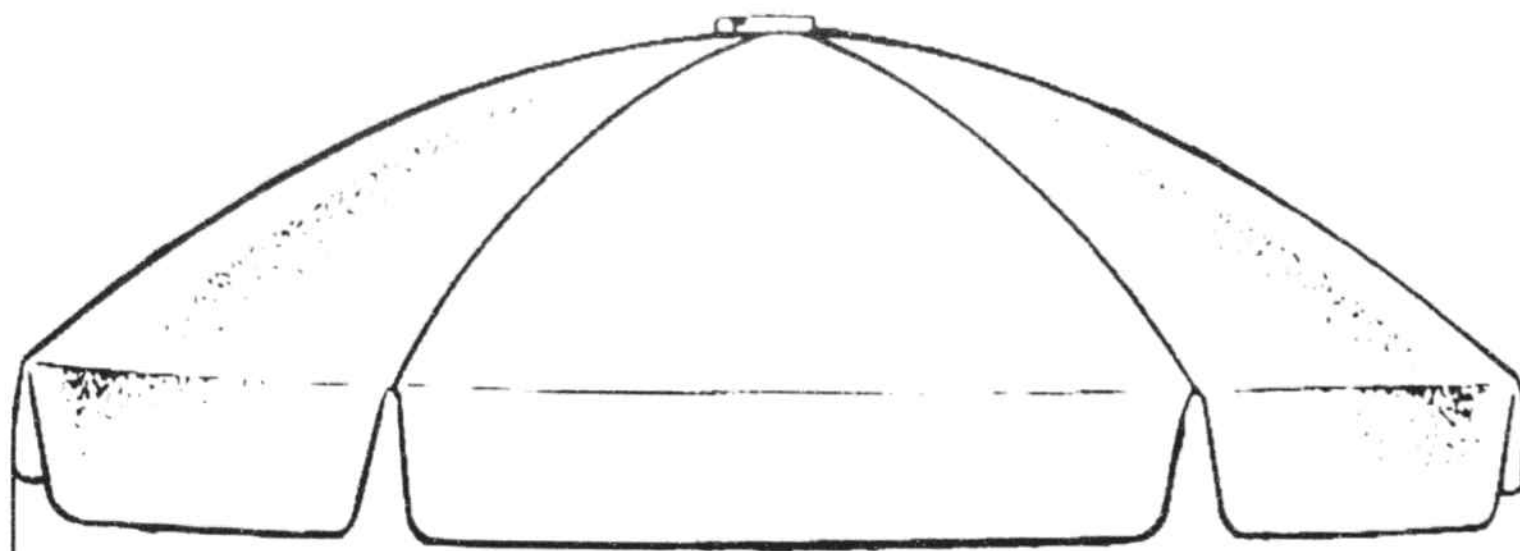
Musical Observance Set

In observance of our nation's birthday, a program of patriotic and American music will be presented at Seaside United Methodist Church on N.C. 904 Sunday, July 3, at 7 p.m.

An augmented choir will sing arrangements of familiar songs. Soloists will perform pieces by George M. Cohan, Irving Berlin and Neil Diamond.

Instrumentalists will be heard on clarinet, dulcimer, autoharp and piano. The audience will be given the opportunity to sing along on several of the well-known patriotic numbers.

The public is invited.



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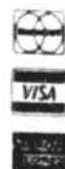
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