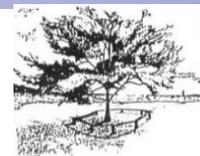


# The Whittler's Bench



**THE WHITTLES BENCH**

is a publication of the Southport Historical Society a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization  
 P. O. Box 10014  
 Southport, NC 28461  
 E-mail: shs@ec.rr.com  
 Website: southporthistoricalsociety.com  
 Telephone contact: 910-457-0579 or 910-454-0437

**OFFICERS:**

President: Larry Maisel  
 Vice President: Joe Loughlin  
 Secretary: Charles Christianson  
 Treasurer: Phil Fravel  
 Archivist: Larry Maisel  
 Past President: Pat Kirkman

**DIRECTORS:**

Tom Izod  
 Trudy Young  
 Nancy Heilhecker

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The purpose of this society shall be to bring together persons interested in the history of Southport and surrounding areas. Understanding the history of our community is basic to our democratic way of life, gives us a better understanding of our state and nation, and promotes a better appreciation of our American heritage.

We further cooperate with the city of Southport to preserve the town's records and archives, and encourage the preservation of historic buildings, monuments and markers.

We endeavor to provide programs of historical interest at regular meetings, publish articles and books for the purpose of education and encourage community participation in the preservation of our heritage.

**Southport Historical Society** was established January, 1976 and maintains the **Old Jail Museum** located at 318 E. Nash Street Southport, NC

## March Meeting Thur. March 24 at 6:30



### Former First Lady visiting March 24th Meeting

You may think you're seeing a ghost, but the wife of Abraham Lincoln is coming to Southport on March 24. to be at our meeting. And she wants to set the record straight about all those things that have been said about her through the years! She feels that a historical society is the place to do that!

It won't be a ghost you're seeing, but a portrayal of Mary Todd Lincoln by a lady who knows her subject thoroughly. Elizabeth Hogan has been a volunteer at Washington DC's *Ford's Theatre National Historic Site* since 2000 and has given both first and third person historical interpretations of Mary Todd Lincoln to visitors from around the world. She has appeared in National Park Service events, including the re-dedication of the Lincoln Memorial, since 2007. The meeting will be held in the regular place: the Southport Community building adjacent to the Ft. Johnston Garrison House. Visitors are

welcome, and urged to bring a covered dish. Dinner begins at 6:30 and the program at 7:00PM. For more information, contact Larry Maisel at [olmize@aol.com](mailto:olmize@aol.com) or 477-0296.

## Charles the Shelf Wizard

When the City of Southport exercised its option to take back the Jail annex, it left two groups in a bind. The Friends of the Library group, which sub leases part of the building from us, stores a huge number of used books there for the sales they hold several times a year to support the library.

We keep roughly six thousand new books in our sales inventory. Both groups had to make other plans. For several days, we were in a real bind over where to put our books. Then the society's secretary, Charles Christianson, eyeballed a room in the Old Jail Museum and decided that we just might be able to fit all our books in it. He found other places to put cleaning supplies, and such, and then, ala Clark Kent, he transformed himself in The Shelf Wizard!

Before long there were heavy wooden shelves from floor to ceiling in that little room. Interestingly, some materials for the shelves came from the Jail Annex where, years before, another SHS officer—former, longtime treasurer, Wolf Furstenau—had constructed shelves of a clever design.

That left one more task: getting all those heavy boxes of books up onto the shelves. Enter our vice president, Joe Loughlin, who has the look and the brawn of an NFL nose tackle. While all that lifting wasn't a piece of cake, Joe got it done.

Bottom line: the work your officers do doesn't always follow their job descriptions!



## *History for the Taking sign up for our spring classes starting soon!*

Want to learn more about Southport? Keep your calendar free on Monday evenings! The Southport Historical Society's Spring classes,-- with a wide variety of offerings -- begin on Monday, April 11, at 7 PM when Capt. Bert Felton will take you back a few centuries when Native Americans lived in the area, then forward to early settlement up river, and the great importance the area all around Southport had for the British Navy. Something during the second week, Capt. Bert will hold a morning class and tour of Brunswick Town and Ft. Anderson.

On April 18 and May 2, at 7 PM, Pat Kirkman will pick up where Capt. Bert's presentation ends, at about the time of the French and Indian War, which followed King George's War, which was known in Europe as the War of Austrian Succession, which had to do with the War of Jenkin's Ear, which...well, you get the idea. Pat will make it much clearer!

She will introduce you to area heroes and scoundrels, take you through the Revolution (You'd be amazed at what happened here!), the founding of our town, why the War of 1812 missed us, the Civil War and what happened in Smithville beginning the day after Ft. Fisher fell, and major changes that were being made by the 1870s and 80s.

Musette Steck will delve into little-known aspects of the Reconstruction Era with *Reconstruction Myths and Truths* on May 16 and *Reconstruction in the North and in the South*, on May 23. Both classes are at 7 PM. Both feature little-known and misunderstood situations.

On June 6, Larry Maisel will tell about the boomtown Southport became, in the 1890s, how it escaped a nationwide financial crash, how local men became smugglers and got involved with the Spanish American War before it was even declared, and the coming (and going) of the railroad. That session ends with the impact of Great Depression in Southport and Brunswick Co.

The June 13th class will go into detail about World War II locally, when Southport became a military town, with Coast Guard, Navy and Army operations here. And German spies, too! Drastic changes after the war will also be covered, including the collapse of the fishing industry. Cost for each of the four pairs of classes is \$15. A single class is \$10.

**Larry Maisel**



Charen Fink shares how women lived in 1860



## *Don't forget about the "Burying Grounds"*

Remember what a mess we had? Many of you took on part of the cemetery as your contribution to keeping it up. If you didn't, I'm sure Musette Steck will be glad to assign you an area to keep picked up. The City does their part, but they still need help. Our thanks to all who have and continue to honor our past by making this cemetery a beautiful place to visit. This is no longer the Historical Societies project, but we all still need to keep our eyes on it and do our part.

## *Message from the President:*



### **Society's pace picking up**

Spring is here! The daffodils and some tulips are busy poking their heads above ground. Your historical society also is getting more active on several fronts. You probably know that the City of Southport exercised its option to terminate our lease of the Jail Annex (behind the Old Jail Museum) and we were given until the end of this month to have the thousands of books we have stored there along with some other things. That left us scrambling, because there appeared to be nowhere for us to go with all those books. Then a couple of our members pulled a rabbit out of the hat and solved our problem, at least for the time being. More on that elsewhere in this edition of the Whittlers Bench.



At the last Membership Meeting I talked about the plan to save images of our town for future generations by photographing every dwelling in Southport's Historic District and a little beyond. If you can help, let us know. The idea is to match the pictures with those taken for another project a couple of decades ago. The results should be interesting to say the least. The town has changed, and the effort people have put into their houses in that period of time is remarkable. We'll try to have some early samples at the May meeting. We have another photo project too, which you can read about below

We continue to need a long-term place both for storing our artifacts and files, to give room for research, for volunteers to have room to work on putting our files in order, and as a headquarters that people can visit to learn about Southport's history. I'm confident we'll get there eventually, but it's not likely to be soon, unless one of you members has some space downtown that you'd like to rent to us cheap!

Larry Maisel

## *A Quest for Pictures!*

Pictures of Southport's past are scarce. Photos from about the time of World War I until the early 1950s seem to be hiding somewhere. This wasn't a wealthy community, and unfortunately, not many people had cameras. During the Great Depression many folks were living "hand-to-mouth" and what little money they had went for food and other essentials, not for cameras and film.

During World War II this town was jumping with activity, filled with sailors, Coast Guardsmen, and Army men. But the number of photos taken then was small. Film was scarce at times and you had to buy it, take the pictures and then pay to have them developed. During World War II film was often hard to get and the armed forces prevented some things from being photographed.

It seems strange, but it's sometimes easier to get photos from 1911 than 1941. We've put out an appeal to long-time locals to let us scan their pictures, and explained that we only need to borrow them for a short while. Keep your fingers crossed. And if you know any Southport's Old Timers, try to get them involved.



## Boy! Do We have Books!



I just moved over 6000 books from the Annex to the Old Jail. Whew! We sell about a 1000 books a year. So you would think we should be out of books in about six years. Only thing is we have way too many of some and not enough of others. Some will be stored for quite some time. Take a look at your library. Maybe there are books on this list that are missing. Just let me know and I'll see you get a copy!

Joe Loughlin  
jloughlin@ec.rr.com  
910-269-4038

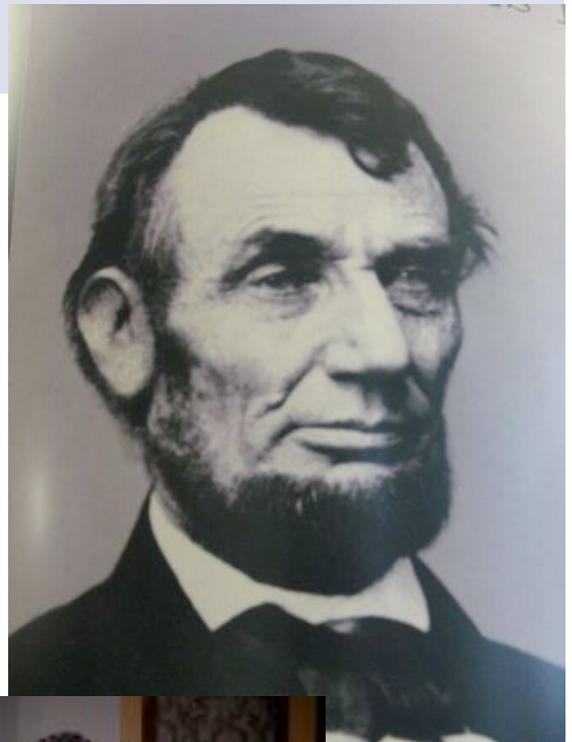
## Southport Historical Society Books



	Member Price	Retail Price
Architecture of Southport	\$6.00	\$7.00
Video DVD of Southport History	\$22.50	\$25.00
Cap'n Charlie	\$9.00	\$10.00
Cemetaries of Southport	\$7.00	\$8.00
Classic Southport Cooking	\$18.50	\$22.00
Ft. Caswell (out of stock)	\$15.25	\$18.25
Ft. Johnston	\$5.00	\$6.00
Guns For Cotton	\$9.00	\$10.00
Histoy Of Long Beach	\$16.25	\$19.25
Joshua's Dream	\$9.00	\$10.00
Joshua's Legacy	\$9.00	\$10.00
Lelia Jane	\$8.00	\$9.00
Set Of Three above	\$25.00	\$25.00
Reminiscences	\$7.00	\$9.00
Southport Secrets	\$7.00	\$8.00
Southport Chronology Volume I	\$7.50	\$10.00
Southport Chronology Volume II	\$7.50	\$10.00
Southport Chronology Volume III	\$5.00	\$10.00
Southport Chronology Volume IV	\$5.00	\$10.00
Set of four above	\$30.00	\$30.00
Of Home & The River	\$20.00	\$24.00
Master of Shoals	\$12.00	\$14.00
Southport Video DVD	\$22.50	\$25.00
Wilmington Ghost	\$11.00	\$13.00
Before we were Quaint	\$22.50	\$25.00

Price includes  
sales tax

*Have you seen my wife? Check page one.*



Elizabeth Hogan will portray Mary Todd Lincoln at Thursday's Meeting. Please come!

*2011 Dues are due (your support is appreciated)*

You may pay them by mailing the form below or at the annual meeting. Consider a life membership and forget about future payments!

*Membership Application . . . Invite a Friend to Join*

**SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 New \_\_\_\_\_ or Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your check to: P. O. Box 10014, Southport, NC 28461

Annual Dues: Individual \$15 Couple \$25 Business/Organization \$25  
 Life Memberships: Individual \$150 - Couple/Business \$200