LOWER CAPE FEAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.
BULLETIN

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WILMINGTON, N. C.
FEBRUARY, 1959

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Your President and Board of Directors have for some time felt the desire to have extra activities for the membership of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society other than the three general meetings. We have ideas for three such programs. If the plans materialize as expected, the first event will be an exhibition of early portraits at the Artists' Gallery on Post Office Avenue. Then there will be two field trips during the spring. One will be to "Old Brunswick Town" with a lecture and visit to the site under the direction of Mr. Stanley South, archaeologist in charge. The other a tour to New Bern to see the restoration of Tryon's Palace.

The exhibition of early portraits will be of great interest to members of the Society and also to Wilmingtonians at large. It is planned to confine the exhibits to portraits of the Colonial and Federal periods. This will limit the number of paintings considerably as very few have survived. All the portraits represented will be either residents of the Lower Cape Fear or ancestors of Cape Fear people. Some of the paintings are primitive while others are the work of more sophisticated artists. It is too early to discuss the different exhibits, but one which is sure to be of greatest interest is the portrait of Col. Oliver Pendleton and his wife Catherine McIlhenny Pendleton. This was probably a marriage portrait done circa 1790. The unknown artist posed the two full length standing figures with the gentleman's arm about his wife's waist while she rests her hand lightly on his shoulder. They stand in a landscape with a distant view of water and a ship which may be one of the earliest pictorial interpretations of the Cape Fear river. The artist was possibly familiar with British portraits in the Eighteenth Century grand manner thru engravings, and was thus inspired in his ambitious undertaking. He achieved a work of great charm and distinction in spite of the limitation of technical ability. Perhaps because of difficulties to be overcome in lack of technique and equipment the images he and his fellow American primitives were able to put down gain in directness and intensity. The Pendleton portrait, which has been in storage for many years, is only one of many to be shown but lack of space prevents discussion of the others. The exhibition will be a very fascinating one.

Originally it was planned to have Mr. Stanley South speak at the general meeting on Feb. 18th. But, it was realized that his subject, "Old Brunswick Town" was too full of interest and the excavation of this historic site too important to share with another subject on the same program. If all goes well, the Society will hear Mr. South lecture in the chapel at Orton Plantation, after which there will be a guided tour of the site where the members can inspect the excavations which have been accomplished thus far. The tentative date has been set for Sunday afternoon, March 15th.

Like other North Carolinians interested in the history of the State, we have been waiting with impatience to see the Tryon Palace restoration. The rebuilding of the Governor's residence and State House is one of the major restorations ever carried out in this country, and its importance cannot be overstated. Lower Cape Fear people feel particular and personal interest since Gov. Tryon was a resident of the Cape Fear for a time. It is quite likely that as the excavations of "Old Brunswick Town" progress the foundations of "Russellboro" later called "Castle Tryon" will be brought to light. If arrangements can be made, it is hoped the Society can have a specially conducted tour thru the Palace some time in the spring. The date will be announced when plans are final.

In accordance with the stated objectives in the Certificate of Incorporation of the Society to..."Collect, preserve and disseminate knowledge and information regarding the history of the Lower Cape Fear", the Board of Directors wishes to reprint the study by the late Rev. Andrew J. Howell, called "Cornelius Harnett, a Revolutionary Patriot." This valuable booklet has long been out of print and to make it once again available will be most worthwhile and is a first small step in carrying out this particular phase of the aims of the Society.

During the early formative years of our Society we can only hope to lay the groundwork for the future which will surely be full of fine accomplishment. Under the able administration of our first President, Mr. Hargrove Bellamy, the organization was accomplished in a sound manner. We feel that in augmenting the program a step is being taken which will vastly increase the value of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society to its own membership and to the larger community.

—HENRY JAY MacMILLAN
MEETINGS

Place and Time: Sorosis Club, 116 N. Third St., 8:00 P.M. (Please note change in place of meeting).

Second General Meeting—February 18, 1959

Topic: Colonial Architecture in Eastern North Carolina Slides (in color) made and shown by R. V. Asbury

Narrator: Miss Mildred Johnson.

This meeting, which promises to be one of our most delightful programs, will be in the hands of Miss Mildred Johnson and Mr. R. V. Asbury.

It has been said by Leicester B. Holland of the Library of Congress that, "While little remains of the great plantation houses, a far more vivid picture of how the early settlers shaped their lives and built their homes upon the land they had cleared is to be found in North Carolina than elsewhere in the Southern States."

An especially chosen selection of colored slides from the excellent collection of Mr. R. V. Asbury will illustrate the program which will be narrated by Miss Mildred Johnson of the faculty of the Wilmington College. Miss Johnson is well known for her dynamic presentations and her contagious enthusiasm which inspired many students to major in the subject of History. Mr. Asbury began his collection of slides as a class project while studying with Miss Johnson. Thus the Society is benefiting by a collaboration developed by the Wilmington College. It is hoped that a large audience will be in attendance.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At this meeting, a Nominating Committee, consisting of a Chairman and two other members, will be elected by the Society, as provided in the Bylaws, Article III, Sec. 1.

The duty of the Nominating Committee will be to present at the Annual Meeting to be held May 6, nominations for the officers listed in the Bylaws, and for two Directors to succeed Miss Caroline D. Flanner and Mr. Davis Howes, whose terms expire May 6.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE DIRECTORS

JAN. 11, 1959

Archivist

Whereas the duties of the Secretary now are unduly burdensome,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the directors recommend that the Bylaws, Article III, Sec. 1, and Article V, Sec. 3, be amended to provide for another officer, an Archivist, who shall be responsible to the Society for the cataloging and custody of the material given to the Society.

Fort Fisher

Whereas interest in the restoration of Fort Fisher has borne fruit in certain concrete achievements, to wit: the leasing to the State of North Carolina of the section of the fort area included in the Sunny Point Buffer Zone, the beginning of erosion control and shore stabilization by the State Highway Department, the recognition of the project by the press and other news media of the State, the assurance of support by members of the legislature, and preliminary surveys by the department of Archives and History,

And whereas interest continues to grow, as witnessed by endorsements of various civic, historical, and governmental bodies, guaranteeing support for further development of the project,

Be it therefore resolved: that the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, Inc., concurs in the recent proposal by the Wilmington Star-News that Fort Fisher be made a State Park, and restoration be undertaken with the goal of making it available to the public by the beginning of the observance of the Centennial of the Civil War, in 1961.

MAP OF BRUNSWICK

The map of Brunswick reproduced with slight modifications, on page 3, was drawn by Cuddy Joseph Sautelle, a Brunswick-town surveyor who was employed by Gov. William Tryon. During the years 1760 to 1770 the surveys by him, which were presented in the Assembly, were considered the best in North Carolina and the Surveyor General for the Province of North Carolina made use of his maps for further use. The extreme accuracy of Sautelle's work has been proven in the Brunswick exploration, which in every case foundations have been discovered at the precise indicated points.
PLAN of the Town and Port of BRUNSWICK
in Brunswick County,
NORTH CAROLINA
REFERENCE
D, His Excellency Governor Tryon's House
and Plantation
Survey'd & Drawn in April 1769 by C. J. Sauthier

ADAPTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MAP DRAWN IN 1769 BY C. J. SAUTHIER
TOUR, OCT. 19, 1958.

The first tour sponsored by the Society was held Oct. 19, 1958, in cooperation with the State Society of County and Local Historians.

After registration at Thalian Hall and greetings from Mr. Henry J. MacMillan, president of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, Inc., and Hon. J. E. L. Wade, Mayor of Wilmington, Mrs. Taft Bass, President of the State Society of County and Local Historians introduced the guests. Twenty-eight places of historic interest in and near Wilmington were visited, including Orton Plantation and the excavation of Old Brunswick.

Approximately 100 persons representing 20 counties were present. Among them were: Mrs. Taft Bass (also President of the State Society of County and Local Historians), Clinton, Mr. Lewis Philip Hall, Wilmington, Mr. Henry Bacon McKoy, Greenville, S. C., Mr. Louis T. Moore (Chairman, New Hanover Historical Comm.), Wilmington, and Mr. Alexander M. Walker, Bethesda, Md., all of whom are authors or compilers of books on the history and genealogy of South-eastern North Carolina, Mr. Paul Green, Chapel Hill, the noted playwright, and Mr. Henry J. MacMillan, President of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, Inc.

CHANGE IN PLACE OF MEETING

Attention is called to the fact that the meetings for February and May, 1959, will be held in the Sorosis Club house, 116 North Third St. Time, 8:00 p.m.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Please save this Bulletin, as no other notice of the next meeting will be sent you; also, the map appearing on page 3 should be of great help during the spring tour of Old Brunswick outlined on page 1, as well as of permanent interest.