A LASTING IMPRINT: A TRIBUTE TO THREE HISTORIANS

After the death in 1981 of Ida Brooks Kellam, incorporator of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, its first secretary, and archivist of a quarter century, the Society Board passed a resolution to name the archives in her honor. At that time the archives were housed in a small basement room of the Zebulon Latimer House, headquarters of the Society. In the autumn of 1984 the Board voted to move the Ida Brooks Kellam Memorial Archives upstairs into a spacious suite above the north parlor. Since the new archives provide more space, the board thought it would be appropriate to pay tribute to two additional ladies, who like Mrs. Kellam had made a lasting imprint on the historical collections of the Society. Two formal resolutions were passed to name the library/board room in honor of the late Elizabeth Francenia McKoy and the staff research area in honor of the late Leona Hiatt McEachern. The entire complex will be known as the Ida Brooks Kellam Memorial Archives.

The three ladies who have been honored enriched the Society in multiple ways. All three were modest about the contributions they made, but their steady output of work that was true to the high standards of assiduous research and careful documentation has enhanced the Society’s historical collections with quantity and quality. All three ladies cared deeply about the history of the Lower Cape Fear and strived to make that history known through writing, teaching, compiling, and publishing. All three had engaged in extensive work so that the lineage of Wilmington's architecture could be documented. They also shared an interest in genealogy and each had contributed to the publication of the historical records of St. James Church. They all had won the LCFHS Clarendon Award.

After the deaths of Mrs. Kellam, Mrs. McEachern, and Miss McKoy the Society learned that through their generosity the archives would be further enriched. Mrs. Kellam bequeathed her entire Lower Cape Fear Collection. E. M. McEachern donated portions of his wife’s collections dealing with New Hanover County and has given the Society the publishing rights to her “Birth, Marriage, and Death Records from the Wilmington Chronicle 1843-47.” Miss McKoy left a cash bequest for historical publications and the remaining volumes of Early New Hanover County Records, which are being sold for the Society’s benefit.

For the past year the volunteer archives staff of three has been engaged in the organization and appraisal of the collections. The move to spacious quarters has made it possible for the work to go forward efficiently. There is sufficient room for the staff to work with the materials and the library makes it possible for guest researchers to work in an environment that is conducive to serious study. To date a survey of the LCFHS Collections has been completed and the materials are being arranged into record groups. The “Master Family Name File” will record all references to families in the Genealogical Records grouping. Cataloging of the Special Collections is in progress. Photographs are being catalogued to conform to the same system of approach as used in the New Hanover County Museum and Public Library. A new system for accessions has been implemented, which will include an accession sheet for each acquisition, a donor file, and a complete inventory for each acquisition. Work is in progress on the Subjects and Places Files. As the cataloguing progresses each item is being placed in an acid free file folder and stored in an acid free box or fireproof file case. The entire building is protected with a burglar-fire alarm system.

The inventory, re-organization, cataloguing, and new accession policy of the archives make it possible for the archives staff to obtain an intellectual control over the collections, and easy access to the many valuable records that belong to the Society. In the past year more than one hundred inquiries have been answered by mail and as a result of this courtesy, many correspondents have sent donations to the Society and ordered publications. Researchers use the archives on a regular basis. Representatives of the New Hanover County Library, New Hanover County Museum, Mayor’s Task Force for Historic Preservation and Historic Wilmington Foundation have toured the archives so that a cooperative spirit in dissemination of historical information is achieved.

No doubt the three historians whose names have been honored by the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society would be pleased that within the rooms that bear their names the work goes on.

Archives Staff: Diane C. Cashman, Merle J. Chamberlain, Ruth S. Walker
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As I prepare to pass the gavel to my successor, I naturally look back upon three years as president.

Thanks to many people, both members of the Society and non-members but especially to the directors and committee chairmen in recent years, those years have been most rewarding.

Today I sense a new enthusiasm and wider participation in the Society’s activities. Community support for the Candlelight Tour last year was marvelous. Patronage of the Archives has increased. Contributions to the Garden in the form of financial assistance, labor and plants have been made. Latimer House has been given a sense of life and presence. To a degree because of publishing two books within three years we are in sound financial condition—not wealthy but we can pay our routine bills—and we face the coming year with a balanced budget.

Led by a core group a lot of people carried the Society through trying times. At this moment I relinquish the presidency with great confidence in the future of the Society. BUT it is your active participation and support which will ensure continued progress.

Sincerely,

Frank Conlon

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

The Society gratefully acknowledges the following gifts:

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Lottie Campbell Carpenter
For Miss Elizabeth McKay
Dr. and Mrs. John Cashman
For Miss Elizabeth McKay, for Winston Broadfoot, for Mrs. Sally Labouisse, for Mrs. Isabel S. Scott, for Master Sergeant Herbert D. Hale, USMC (Retired)
Mrs. Walter McEachern
For Winston Broadfoot
Mr. and Mrs. William Perdew
For Winston Broadfoot

BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY

Elizabeth Graham Hazlehurst Hicks
A bequest of $5,000 in memory of John Livingston Hazlehurst, Jr.

GIFTS TO THE LATIMER HOUSE

Captain Frank S. Conlon, Mrs. Paul G. Burton, Mrs. John Cashman, Mr. Robert F. Coleman III, Miss Katherine Howell, Mrs. William H. Sutton, Mrs. Walker Taylor III, Dr. Alan D. Watson
One metal folding chair each
Miss Sarah Montgomery Hicks and Mrs. E. Reid Toms
Five large damask towels
Mrs. Paul Jennewein
Three wine glasses
Mrs. Louise Pierson
Lace curtains
Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Smith
Lace valances

LOWER CAPE FEAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

Volume XXVIII, Number 3 Westminster, N.C.  May 1985

OFFICERS 1984-85

President..........................Capt. Frank S. Conlon
Vice President....................Mrs. A. Dumay Gorham, Jr.
Recording Secretary..............Mrs. M. Anthony DeSisto
Corresponding Secretary........Mrs. Walker Taylor III
Treasurer..........................Miss Katherine Howell
Archivist.........................Mrs. John Cashman
Assistant Archivist..............Mrs. Robert Walker
Counsel............................Mr. James D. Carr
Administrative Assistant........Jean S. Scott

DIRECTORS

Terms expiring May 1985: Mr. Robert F. Coleman III, Mrs. Peter R. Davis, Dr. Landon B. Anderson, Mrs. Paul G. Burton, Mrs. James D. Hundleby, Jr.

Terms expiring May 1986: Mr. John R. A. Beatty, Mrs. Donald E. Pike, Mr. C. Heide Trask, Jr., Dr. Alan D. Watson.

Terms expiring May 1987: Mrs. William E. Oakley, Mr. William W. Stanfield, Jr., Mrs. William H. Sutton, Mrs. Frederick B. Willetts, Jr., Mrs. S. Terry Withers.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Book—Mrs. John Cashman; Bulletin—The Rev. Walser H. Allen, Jr.; Candlelight Tour & Wassail Bowl—Dr. Landon B. Anderson; Clarendon Award—Dr. Alan D. Watson; Docent—Mrs. S. Terry Withers; Finance—Mr. W. W. Stanfield, Jr.; Historic Wilmington Tour—(To be appointed); Hospitality—Mrs. Paul G. Burton; Incorporators’ Garden—Mr. C. Heide Trask, Jr.; Latimer House—Mrs. Donald E. Pike; Latimer House Restoration—Mrs. William J. Maney, Dr. Gordon Smith; Membership—Mr. Robert F. Coleman III; Nominating—Mrs. William H. Sutton; Program—Mrs. A. Dumay Gorham, Jr.; Publicity—Mrs. William E. Oakley; Sales—Dr. Landon B. Anderson; Servants’ Quarters—Dr. Charles P. Graham.

MEETING

Date: Sunday, May 12, 1985
Time: 4:00 P.M.
Place: Gilmour Hall
First Presbyterian Church
Speaker: Mr. Harry G. Latimer III
Topic: Personal Glimpses of the Latimer Family

Note: Officers and new members of the Board of Directors of the Society for 1985-1986 will be elected at this meeting.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Graham Hazlehurst Hicks
Elizabeth Francenia McKay
Margaret Johnson Thompson
Walter McEachern
IDA BROOKS KELLAM
1895-1981
Janet K. Seapker

If you were considered a serious scholar, genealogist, researcher or seeker-of-truth, you may have been admitted to the “inner sanctum” of 219 South Third Street. The inner sanctum, actually the dining room, was a special place—cluttered and organized at the same time—where only those earnestly in search of truth were granted admission.

That dining room was Ida Brooks Kellam’s research center. It contained years and years of “Miss Ida’s” work—abstracts of land grants, deeds, censuses, wills, estate papers, pension records, gravestone records, Bible records, marriage bonds, city directory information—every conceivable primary source reference.

Miss Ida began gathering such information in her search for her own family history. In 1950 she published Brooks and Kindred Families, documenting her own ancestors. It was the culmination of years of research, instigated by her father’s encouragement.

Born on March 25, 1895 in Moore County (now Lee County), Miss Ida began teaching in her late teens. She ventured south to Hillsboro and eventually to Wilmington where she taught, and where she met and married Samuel Kellam in 1927. Her teaching career of 40 years put her in contact with hundreds of first graders, in whom, one suspects, she instilled some of her particular regard for history. Her formal retirement from teaching was by no means retirement from public service or from the world of education.

Miss Ida’s volunteer and post-retirement career accomplishments rival those of her professional career in effectiveness. Her volunteer efforts began through her association with patriotic and lineage groups like the Daughters of the American Revolution, United Daughters of the Confederacy and Colonial Dames of the XVIII Century. Much of her work involved verifying lines of descent. Those duties eventually took Miss Ida through graveyards where she recorded burial records, to county offices, to libraries, to the North Carolina State Archives and church offices where she abstracted important genealogical records.

Sometimes she worked alone; sometimes in association with other avid researchers. She may have been the one who began the local practice of compiling abstracted works and placing them in libraries so that the maximum number of people would have access to them. Miss Ida spent many days typing her findings from her cross-referenced cards into manuscripts using as many carbons as technology would allow. Later on she committed her compilations to mimeograph stencils which greatly increased the number of copies she could produce. The fruits of her labors are still being enjoyed by researchers.

A partial list of Miss Ida’s published works follows:
- Gravestone Records, Oakdale Cemetery, 1941.
- New Hanover County Records, Deeds and Wills, Record Book E. Will Book A and B, Will Book C. n.d.
- Lower Cape Fear Gravestone Records, 2 volumes, n.d.

Miss Ida didn’t cloister herself with the “official records” exclusively; she served the organizations to which she belonged. Among her most important offices were incorporator, first secretary (1957-1959) and first archivist (1959-1981) of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society. She was a principal leader in organizing and planning the local commemoration of the American Revolution during its 200th anniversary. Prompted by her strong patriotic spirit, from 1971-1976 she served effectively and faithfully as a member of the Executive Committee of the New Hanover County American Revolution Bicentennial Association.

Her service was recognized formally by the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society through the presentation on the Clarendon Cup, by the Society for the Preservation of North Carolina Antiquities (now the Historic Preservation Foundation of N.C.), through the Cannon Cup and by the American Association of State and Local History with the Award of Merit.

Miss Ida was the best sort of local historian and genealogist. She performed the tedious tasks demanded by her titles. She inspired, taught and encouraged others and shared her findings. More than any other local researcher, she taught her fellow researchers to be careful in gathering data and critical in assessing it. Death claimed Miss Ida on March 14, 1981.

How fitting that the Archives of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society is named for its founder and advocate, Ida Brooks Kellam!

Janet K. Seapker is Director of the New Hanover County Museum and was formerly Chief of the Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources, State of North Carolina.

LEORA HIATT McEACHERN
1909-1982
Walser H. Allen, Jr.

When the Board of Directors of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society decided to name the staff research area of the Society’s Archives the Leora Hiatt McEachern Room in memory of the late Mrs. E. M. McEachern, they chose to honor an extraordinarily dedicated local historian who had proved her devotion to the Society and to the rich history of the Cape Fear region in countless remarkable ways. “Billie,” as everyone called her, was a true friend of history who worked at it long and hard: as a resourceful researcher; a prolific author and playwright; an entertaining and informative lecturer, speaker or teacher; an able administrator; and an honest but reverent archivist. Could anyone who ever heard of her pioneering searches for lost family cemeteries in persistent pursuit of genealogical data ever forget or cease to admire her indefatigable efforts?
Principally from the late Mrs. Ida Brooks Kellam, an incorporator and for many years Archivist of the Society who was affectionately known as "Miss Ida," "Billie" McEachern gained an appreciation of the value of records and learned how to find and use them—in attics and archives, libraries and courthouses. And what marvelous uses she did make of them!

But her career as an historian began with a drama! "It started in 1965 when the state was celebrating the Civil War centennial," she said. "Mrs. McEachern and a friend, Isabel Williams, had been touring a children's theater of their own creation to elementary schools in the area. That made them ideal candidates for what Wilmington's Civil War centennial committee had in mind. They asked us to do something at Thalian Hall on January 15, the date Fort Fisher fell, because people had been in the theater that night. Nobody but Wilmington would celebrate when they got clobbered. We decided we'd do it. I'll try anything once. We wanted to tie it to history . . . but we needed information. We wanted original stuff, so we ran a news story asking if anybody had any old letters or records that might help us. We copied everything that appealed to us." With new materials—and old—in hand, they wrote and directed *This is How it Happened*, a dramatic reading in two parts for four voices, as suggested by Henry Jay MacMillan and staged by the Wilmington College Theater. It turned out to be the highlight of the entire centennial in Wilmington.

But the bug had bitten! Now "Billie" McEachern and "Debbie" [Mrs. Robert W.] Williams got serious about Civil War research. With the liberal support of Wilmington's Junior League, they launched a major Research Project on the history of the Lower Cape Fear, 1861-1865, which lasted for eleven years and elicited high praise from the State Division of Archives and History. A bibliography was compiled "from thousands of sources, about half of which have been copied. . . . (including) letters and accounts of people who experienced the events of the period." In 1978 the results of this research, consisting of 2½ linear feet, were given to the Randall Library of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. All copied materials, published or unpublished, had been cross-indexed with biographical, subject and bibliographic cards.

This talented team next investigated the important salt-extraction industry of New Hanover County, which became so crucial to the economy of North Carolina during late Confederate days. In the fascinating story of *Salt, That Necessary Article*, they identified the location of the North Carolina Salt Works on Myrtle Grove Sound and with extensive documentation showed how that vast operation together with over 100 private works grew to an 8 million dollar business.

During the Bicentennial years Mrs. McEachern and Mrs. Williams were prime movers of the Publications Committee of the New Hanover County American Revolution Bicentennial Association. In that capacity they prepared annual historical calendars of Revolutionary events of the Lower Cape Fear region for the years 1775 & 1776, following their first calendar which had encompassed the years 1765-1774. However, their chief contribution to the Bicentennial commemoration was achieved by editing the Wilmington-New Hanover Safety Committee Minutes, 1774-1776, which was published by the Bicentennial Association in 1974 with an introduction by Lawrence Lee and a foreword by this writer. They greatly enhanced the value of this edition by including an appendix consisting of brief biographical data on the Revolutionary figures mentioned in the Minutes. For this volume they received the Historical Society's Clarendon Award in 1975, in recognition of the year's outstanding work on Lower Cape Fear history.

From October 1969 to May 1973 and from February 1978 to May 1979 Mrs. McEachern served as the editor of this publication, the Historical Society's *Bulletin*, maintaining the high standard of historical accuracy and significance which had been established by previous editors and had made the *Bulletin* perhaps the best of its type in North Carolina. In fact, McEachern and Williams were partly responsible for that reputation of high quality through numerous articles which they co-authored for the thrice-yearly issues. In addition, Leora H. McEachern collaborated with Crockett W. [Mrs. Addison, Jr.] Hewlett to research and write a very useful work entitled *Attorneys of New Hanover County, 1724-1978*.

Attracted to the oft-concealed and long-neglected source of genealogy and thus history to be found on gravestones, "Billie," with the aid of her trusty tape-recorder and the wise assistance of her husband, E. M. ("Ned") McEachern and her "tombstone buddy," Ruth S. [Mrs. Robert H.] Walker, then turned to a challenging new project. In five counties of southeastern North Carolina she explored over 70 cemeteries and recorded all the data to be gleaned from their stones and other markers. With this information she compiled eleven volumes of *Gravestone Records*, thus making available a wealth of fresh primary sources.

With such a variety of "hands-on" experiences and other credentials to her credit, "Billie" McEachern, already a "natural" instructor, was well-prepared to teach courses in local history and genealogy. By 1969 she commenced offering her courses at Cape Fear Technical Institute in Wilmington and continued to do so until shortly before her death, which occurred on November 17, 1982. Hundreds of students imbued from her overflowing cup a full draught of the spirit and letter of North Carolina/Lower Cape Fear law (deeds, wills, etc.), legend and history. Indeed, the combination of "Billie's" sometimes salty language and ever-peppy personality provided a fully seasoned feast of tutorial and conversational delights.

As an administrator, "Billie" McEachern relished the opportunity to involve her friends and colleagues in the activities of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, which she served as President from May, 1973 to May, 1975. She was attentive to every detail or task and her leadership left the Society stronger than she found it. "Billie's" formal education included study at St. Mary's School in Raleigh from which she graduated, and Northwestern University, as well as High Point College. Leaving her home parish of St. Mary's in High Point, she brought with her to Wilmington a deep and abiding
love for the Episcopal Church. Long a member of St. James Church, Mrs. McEachern has been honored by a memorial plaque installed on the outside wall of the church’s Great Hall. She labored for years as the Archivist and with Lula Walton Matthews and Curry Kirk Walker produced two volumes of the St. James Church Historical Records. Evidently, as the Rev. Robert D. Cook, Rector of St. James Church, declared, “Archives of our histories—family, ecclesiastical, and political—were her bread and butter... Billie was concerned not just to get the record straight, but to know and tell the truth. It was a search throughout her life for truth—not simply veracity or accuracy, but truth... Her deepest memorial, however, will be the abiding love, loyalty and devotion which she has bequeathed to us.”

Recognized as an historian not without honor in her own county, New Hanover, “Billie,” a native of Sampson County, earned nearly equal acclaim in neighboring counties: Bladen, Brunswick, Pender, Sampson, and Duplin. In the last-named she generously lent her skills to the Duplin County Historical Society, at Rose Hill. With the encouragement of the Society and Dr. Dallas Herring, former Chairman of the North Carolina State Board of Education, she delved deeply into the county’s eighteenth century records and compiled and edited four volumes of Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Abstracts of Minutes. In tribute to her scholarly endeavor, the Society, on April 5, 1980, named its library the Leora H. McEachern Library in honor of “Billie,” historian, author, scholar, humanitarian. As Dr. Herring observed upon her passing, “She knew, perhaps better than any of us, that the past is prologue. She made the past real to us by giving thousands of us a reason for personal attachment to it. She made us feel that these are our people and that what they lived and died for was genuinely important... Billie McEachern showed us in her own unique way how to bring about a re-birth of freedom simply by looking closely and thoroughly and understandingly at our past and making it relevant to our own times.”

The Rev. Mr. Allen, an ordained minister of the Moravian Church, is Associate Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and currently editor of the Bulletin.

FOOTNOTES
1Brenda Overman, Staff Writer, “Drama begins history career,” Wilmington Morning Star, Saturday, April 5, 1980, Wilmington, N.C., p. 3-B.
4Footnotes, an occasional publication of the Research Committee of the Duplin County Historical Society, issue #6, 15 January, 1983, Rose Hill, N.C.
5Dr. Dallas Herring, “In Memoriam,” footnotes, issue #6, 15 January, 1983, Rose Hill, N.C.

ELIZABETH FRANCENIA McKOY
1887-1984
Diane Cashman

In March 1887 James F. Post signed a set of architectural drawings labeled “Map of Plan,” “Foundation Plan,” and “Roof Plan” for a house he had just designed for the attorney William Berry McKoy and his bride, Katherine Bacon. By December 14, a day short of their first wedding anniversary, the couple’s first child, Elizabeth Francenia was born in their new impressive many gabled Stick style house at 402 South Third Street. Elizabeth McKoy loved the big house that became a part of Wilmington the same year that she did and “except for a few times when I wandered” lived there until the day she died October 17, 1984.

The big green gingerbread house has remained in the McKoy family almost a century, so it is not surprising that a tour of its high ceiling rooms, exploration of its many nooks and crannies, and study of its furniture, and mementoos furnish glimpses into the past deeds and days of a big and loving family. A button hook still hangs by the mantel—a gentle reminder of Miss McKoy’s high buttoned childhood. Book shelves walls tell the story of her Princeton graduate father, who practiced law as a vocation but also distinguished himself through his avocation as historian and North Carolina book collector. In 1886 he founded the Historic and Scientific Society of Wilmington. His historical records and books were given to the Southern Historical Collection at Chapel Hill. Delicate lace on a canopy bed and a worn spool box bring back the artistic and creative Katherine Bacon McKoy whose brother Henry gained an immortality through his design of the Lincoln Memorial and whose brother Francis was an architect, archaeologist, furniture designer, and builder. In the attic stacks of music surround a silent square piano-forte. Obviously, music once filled the rafters of this great house. Steamers trunks and photograph albums also crowd the attic—this was a family that traveled. A gee-joggle board on the side piazza attests to the frolics shared by McKoy and Bacon youngsters. Elizabeth’s brother, Henry Bacon McKoy’s Wilmington, N.C.—Do You Remember When? shows adult McKoys seated on that gee-joggle board and the text reminds us that the children who grew up in the big green house lived in Wilmington when there were lamplighters, livery stables, and masted ships in the harbor.

Elizabeth McKoy went to school when most families did not regard higher education as a necessary accomplishment for young ladies, but the McKoys encouraged intellectual attainment. Their daughter not only liked school, but excelled in such subjects as Latin and mathematics. Friends were not surprised when “Bess” graduated near the top of her class from Tileston High School in 1905 and then went on to Converse College in Spartanburg, where she distinguished herself by graduating in three years. Her outstanding scholastic performance so delighted her uncle Henry Bacon that he presented her with a gold lapel watch from Tiffany & Co. The gift was accompanied by a hand written

Continued on Page 6
note of congratulation, which concluded: "Whenever you look at it remember the value of time and your loving uncle Harry." Although Miss McKoy did not care much for material possessions, she treasured her watch until the day she died and never forgot either her uncle or "the value of time."

Elizabeth McKoy did not lack gaiety or humor, but she put most of her time in serious pursuits. She read the Bible regularly so it seemed quite natural when references to scripture surfaced in conversation or writing. She responded to nature's beauty, treasured her botany book collection, and planted a wildflower garden in her yard. She was challenged by new projects and when her uncles gave her a loom managed to teach herself how to weave. That same patience and manual dexterity manifested themselves in the delicate to-scale models she built of St. James Church and the Colonial Town of Wilmington. She took pleasure from the exchange of ideas and taught Sunday School at St. James Church and tutored privately in her home. Elizabeth McKoy is best known for her years of research conducted at the New Hanover County Courthouse. There she copied down the recorded original deeds and with protractor and ruler drew out the site of each piece of property described. Slowly, but surely she filled in the jigsaw puzzle of the land's lineage. This deed work formed the basis for her Colonial Town of Wilmington model, published works: Early Wilmington Block by Block from 1733 On, St. James Historical Records 1737-1852, and Early New Hanover County Records, and multi-volumed unpublished "Deeds", which is in the LCFHS collections. Although deed entries could be best described as dull reading, Miss McKoy's delight in history's "curiosities" and interest in people inject her serious subject with personality so that her writing is lively. Some of her most charming pieces, such as "The Children of Shandy Hall," only survive in manuscript form.

Elizabeth Francenia McKoy never forgot "the value of time" and always kept her priorities straight. Her scrapbooks reflect her devotion to St. James Church. Her lifestyle made it clear that her contentment was not derived from the "pomp and vanities" of the world. Her pleasures were simple: time in the garden, a brisk walk, good book, weaving, writing, teaching, and research. Devotion to her family and appreciation for their caring kindnesses to her were touchstones of her life. She also set high value on friendship and took pride in the friends she had made at the courthouse, including the attorneys who would hand down the heavy volumes to her. She shared a special friendship with her neighbor Ida Kellam, whom she would visit to relate the "finds" of each day's work on her return trip home from the courthouse.

Elizabeth McKoy was generous to those she liked. She shared her love, information, and prized possessions freely. From earliest childhood she had known the joy which comes from friendship with the world's great literature. Her brother Henry, sent her beautifully bound editions of the classics which she read with pleasure and then gave as gifts to the people who had touched her life in a special way.

When Elizabeth McKoy's simple handwritten will was read, the Society learned that it had been remembered. Thanks to Miss McKoy there will be income for historical publication projects.

Elizabeth McKoy devoted her long adult life to making good use of her time. At the library which bears her name other students of local history will have an opportunity to emulate her example.

Diane Cashman is Archivist of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society. Her widely-acclaimed book, Cape Fear Adventure: An Illustrated History of Wilmington, was published in 1982 and merited the Clarendon Award in 1983.

Note: This article was based on the author's personal knowledge and correspondence with Elizabeth McKoy, familiarity with her published and unpublished writings, and visits to her home. Other references, which are available at the Ida Brooks Kellam Memorial Archives at Latimer House include: Star-News news articles which appeared on the occasions of her eightieth birthday and death, correspondence between Henry Bacon McKoy and Leslie N. Boney, Jr., an article from the Converse College Alumni Magazine, a letter from Henry Bacon to Elizabeth McKoy, Carl Bacon's scrapbook and other family scrapbooks and photograph albums, Wilmington, N.C.—Do You Remember When? by Henry Bacon McKoy, files on the McKoy family and McKoy house, and Wilmington North Carolina: An Architectural and Historical Portrait by Tony P. Wrenn with photographs by Wm. Edmund Barrett.