"We have seen that the Governour had ... taken refuge on board a ship of war in Cape Fear river, in which situation he continued to exercise all the authorities of his office over those who adhered to the cause of the King, under the hope of still being able to reduce the Colony to obedience. He was encouraged to persevere by the expectation of succours from Ireland under Sir Peter Parker⁶ and Lord Cornwallis⁷, and from his knowledge that General Clinton⁸ was on his way from Boston to his assistance. He had been able to collect a considerable force composed of Scotch Emigrants, and vagabonds who acknowledged no obedience to God or man, the command of which he had given to a Scotchman by the name of M'Donald.⁹ This General M'Donald, and his next officer M'Leod, both of whom had, only a short time before, most solemnly sworn that their only object in North Carolina was to see their friends and relations, assembled their forces at a place called Cross Creek. The Provincial General Moore,¹⁰ having heard of it, assembled as large a force as he could collect, which however, was very inferior in numbers to that of the enemy, and took possession of Rockfish Bridge¹¹ within a few miles of them. There M'Donald entered into a negociation with him, in hopes of bringing him over to the King's party, but Moore treated the attempt with the indignation of a freeman. What prevented M'Donald from attacking the Provincial Troops at this period, when he was so much superior, we know not. He delayed from day to day until from the movement of the troops in various parts of the Province, he began to be afraid of his own safety, and suddenly quitted his ground, without having attempted anything. Moore gave notice of this event to Colonel Caswell,¹² who took post at a place called Moore's Creek Bridge with about one thousand men, to intercept him. M'Donald's party under M'Leod, to the numbe of sixteen or seventeen hundred men, attacked Caswell in his entrenchment, and after a short engagement, in which they were shamefully beaten, they literally took to their heels, leaving behind them fifteen hundred rifles, 350 guns and shot bags, with a number of swords, and thirteen wagons. They lost about seventy men in killed and wounded and among them M'Leod himself. The Americans had only two wounded, one of whom afterwards died.

This victory, it may be supposed, occasioned great joy to the provincials. It was the more gratifying, too, as the Governour, with General Clinton, and several other royal officers were waiting at Cape Fear in full confidence that M'Donald would soon return to them with the subdued provincials. This intelligence to Governour Martin was the death blow to all his hopes of recovering the revolted Province."


Wm. Wooddy, Jr. Printer. 1822.²
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A quarter century ago, on June 21, 1956, Hargrove Bellamy, Henry J. MacMillan, and Ida B. Kellam "set their hands and affixed their seals" to the incorporation of The Lower Cape Fear Historical Society. Their object and purpose was "literary and educational", to "collect and preserve records and materials", and to "disseminate knowledge and information..." about the "Lower Cape Fear area, the State of North Carolina, and The United States of America."

A familiar excerpt from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland reads, "You would tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" "..." "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat. "I don't much care where..." said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

For The Lower Cape Fear Historical Society it matters very much which way we go. This twenty-fifth anniversary year of the incorporation of the Society ended with the tragic and disastrous Fire at the Latimer House, headquarters for The Society. While one quarter century ended, another began. And in the second quarter we must continue to preserve and protect the original intent of the Incorporators. Those things which they held relevant and worthy of preservation we continue to value. And we are resolved to set goals, to know "where we are going." Restoration is nearly complete on The Latimer House; plans are being made for The Incorporators Garden: The Book, sponsored by The Society, written by Archivist Diane Cashman, will be ready for publication next summer, the usual events of the Fall and Winter will be continued; and, a Major Fund Drive has been authorized by the Board of Directors. We have experienced change and the unexpected. But the Society will continue in the same tradition. It matters where we go. We will go forward. Your continued support financially and physically is needed. May we count on you?

Betty H. Boney [Mrs. Charles H. Boney]

ARCHIVES

The new pictorial history of Wilmington by Dr. Anne Russell contains many pictures from the Archives of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, Inc. The bequest of Mrs. Ida B. Kellam to the Archives is still being transferred from her house to the Archives Room. Upon the termination of the Latimer House remodeling, the completion of the Kellam Collection transfer, and the onset of cool weather the Archives Committee will clean, re-organize, and catalog the materials. Dr. Charles P. Graham has constructed a table for reader or library use and Mr. William Beery has donated microfilming equipment and book shelves to enhance the Archives facilities. It is the hope of the committee that it will not be too long before you can receive help with your genealogical, historical, or house queries.

LATIMER HOUSE REPORT

Latimer House Chairman, John Robert Lane and Restoration of Latimer House Chairman, James Robert Warren have devoted most of the past six and a half months to the formidable tasks of coordinating, supervising, and planning the remodeling and restoration of our society's historic headquarters. Ed Turberg, a restoration specialist and Society board member donated his services so that the
painting research is complete. The Dock Street Restoration Company, under the direction of its founder Joe Love, has been the primary contractor. The Society is especially indebted to the gracious ladies whose homes are on this property. They have endured a siege of inconvenience and disarray yet have remained. Portions of the house should be open by November 1, 1981.

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**Old Wilmington by Candlelight**

Zebulon Latimer House

1952

December 12 and 13, 1981

4:00 - 9:00 P.M.

**ANNUAL FUND RAISING**

Once again Old Wilmington by Candlelight Tour Chairman, James Robert Warren has put together a tour to showcase the properties in Historic Wilmington and to capture the spirit of the season. The dates are December 12 and 13. You will receive information about the specifics and you are urged to support this project through your patronage. The Wassail Bowl, a very special Christmas celebration to benefit the Society will be held December 11. Only 100 guests will be allowed to enjoy a suckling pig, gourmet delicacies, and entertainment. Both of these Christmas celebrations will benefit the Society. Monies will be spent to help restore Latimer House. Please help to fill our Christmas stocking.

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**MOORE’S CREEK BATTLE**

*Continued from Page 1*

The Americans sensible of the danger, despatched immediately what forces they had to act against the royalists, at the same time they exerted themselves to support these with suitable reinforcements. General Moore’s numbers at first were inferior to Macdonald’s, which induced the latter to hope that he might intimidate him to join the king’s standard; with this intention he summoned him under the pain of being treated as a rebel if he refused. But Moore being well provided with cannon, and conscious that nothing could be attempted against him, returned the compliment, by acquainting Macdonald, that if he and his party would lay down their arms, and subscribe an oath of fidelity to Congress, they should be treated as friends, but if they persisted in an undertaking for which it was evident they had not sufficient strength, they could not but expect the severest treatment.

In a few days general Moore found himself at the head of 8,000 men, by reason of the continual supplies which daily arrived from all parts. The royal party only amounted to 2,000, and as they were destitute of artillery, they were prevented from attacking the enemy with success, when they had the advantage of numbers. Nothing now remained but to have recourse to a desperate exertion of their own personal valor; by dint of which they effected a retreat for eighty miles to Moore’s Creek, within sixteen miles of Wilmington. Could they have gained this place they expected to have been joined by governor Martin, and general Clinton, who had lately arrived with a considerable detachment. But Moore with his army pursued them so close, that they were obliged to attempt the passage of the creek, on the opposite side of which was colonel Caswell with a considerable body of provincials posted to oppose his passage, with fortifications well planted with cannon. On attempting the creek it was found not to be fordable. They were obliged, therefore, to cross over a wooden bridge, which the provincials had not time entirely to destroy.

They had, however, by pulling up part of the planks, and greasing the remainder, made the passage so difficult that the royalists could not attempt it.

In this situation they were, on the 27th of February, 1776, attacked by Moore and his superior army and totally defeated, with the loss of their general and most of their leaders, as well as the best and bravest of their men. Thus was the power of the provincials established in North Carolina.

A squadron [British] . . . had been fitted out in December 1775, but by reason of unfavourable weather did not reach Cape Fear in North Carolina till the month of May 1776; and here it met with further obstacles to the end of the month.

The British squadron consisted of two fifty gun ships, four of thirty guns, two of twenty, and an armed schooner, and bombketch, all under the command of Sir Peter Parker. The land forces were commanded by lord Cornwallis . . .

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**FOOTNOTES**

1. We could find no information about Richard Snowden; the account is found on page 66 & 67.
2. Josiah Martin, last Royal Governor of North Carolina.
3. Admiral Sir Peter Parker commanded the British fleet.
4. Charles, Lord Cornwallis, general who commanded the British military.
6. Donald McDonald, lieutenant colonel in British army sent to North Carolina to recruit men for a battalion of Royal Highland Emigrant Regiment.
7. Donald McLeod, captain in British army sent with Colonel McDonald.
9. James Moore, brigadier general, commander of the campaign that culminated in the Battle of Moore’s Creek.
10. Near Cross Creek.
11. Richard Caswell, commanding general at the Battle of Moore’s Creek.
13. See footnote 2.
15. See footnote 6.
16. See footnote 11.
17. See footnote 3.