

2020 FFCRR & NSDAR Future Events 2020

***Saturday, April 5, 11:00 am Roll Calling, a joint commemoration with Brunswick Town Chapter, NSDAR & Friends of Ft Caswell Rifle Range. Held in Caswell Beach Town at the site of the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range Memorial.**

SHS* Southport Historical Society
BCHS* Brunswick County Historical Society
FFCRR* Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range
NSDAR* Brunswick Town Chapter, National Society
Daughters of the America Revolution

Thanks to Carl Mauney, World War I Reenactor

Send donations to: *Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range*
5 Foxfire Trace, Caswell Beach, NC 28465

Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range members are all who contributed to the Honor a Brunswick County World War I Veteran Project or gave donations & attended events.

Thank you Phyllis Wilson, Photographer

1918 – 2019
Friends of the 1918 Fort Caswell
Rifle Range Memorial
&
Brunswick Town Chapter, NSDAR

Continue to

Honor Those Who Served

Veterans Day, November 11, 2019, 11:00 am
Held at the Site of the 1918 Ft Caswell Rifle Range Memorial
In Caswell Beach, NC, Public invited



Welcome Norma Eckard, FFCRR* President,
Brunswick Town Ch. NSDAR*

Pledge to the flag
Invocation Randy Lewis, Muscian, Back Porch
Rockers

Wreath Presentation Pat Gooding , Regent, Brunswick Town
Chapter NSDAR* & Martha Koletar,
Vice Regent

Introductions:
DAR Officers Pat Gooding * & Martha Koletar

Gwen Causey Brunswick County 1900-1921
BCHS* VP & BT Ch NSDAR*

Roll Call, Brunswick Co.
World War I Veterans Descendants of WWI Brunswick
Co. will Roll Call, Group 1

Firing of the Cannon SHS*Firing Crew

World WarI Re-enactor Carl Mauney, WWI Soldier Uniform

World War I Veterans, Group 2

Firing of the Cannon SHS* Thor Firing Crew

Benediction Carl Mauney, World War I Reenactor

Taps

Roll Call Readers 1st Group

Fred Stanley, Grandson	Pvt Robert Bollie Stanley
Deborah Bolin, Granddaughter	Pvt Robert Bollie Stanley,
Dave Lewis, Grandson	Lt., Dave Elton Lewis
Dale Spencer, Great Niece	PVT Jackson D. Potter

Roll Call Readers 2nd Group

Dan O'Neill	Caswell Beach Commissioner
George Kassler	Caswell Beach Commissioner
Tom Luken	FFCRR* Sec./Treas.
Marvin Johnson	Southport Historic Society
Jayne Rankin	Brunswick Town Ch.NSDAR*
Kristin Stone	Caswell Dunes Supporter
Pat Steele	Brunswick Town Ch NSDAR
Phyllis Wilson	Brunswick Town Ch NSDAR*

Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range

Norma Eckard	President, FFCRR*
Ron Eckard	Vice President, FFCRR*
Tom Luken	Sec./Trea. FFCRR*
Gwen Causey	Board Member, FFCRR*
LorraineEckard	Board Member, FFCRR*
Amy Eckard	Website Mgr./Researcher, FFCRR*
Jayne Rankin	Special Projects, FFCRR*
Mary Earp	Special Assistant, FFCRR*
Norman & Lois Sprinthall	Advisors/Supporters,FFCRR*

Monday, Armistice Day, November 11, 2019, 11:00 AM
Commemoration at the Fort Caswell Rifle Range Memorial

Welcome:

Norma Eckard, Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range President

1. Two years ago today the researched list of men and women from Brunswick County who served in World War I was completed. Our webmaster spent the month of October 2017, adding to the list that Gwen Causey started. We named a project that day called, *Honor a Brunswick County World War I Veteran* by donating any amount to a veteran. Your name will be listed on the website and in the book to be published. There were 724 men and one woman nurse from Southport.

2. In 2018, we dedicated two things, #1. This beautiful monument to our men and women who served and #2. The new name given to us by the National World War I Commission which we placed on the new signage.

3. Veterans Day 2019, We have worked non stop on the book to be titled:
BRUNSWICK COUNTY IN THE GREAT WAR:
Preserving the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the Legacies of the Men and Women Who Served

4. Future work:

- a. The firing line will soon be identified by a surveyor.
- b. Hopefully more work can be accomplished on the passageway wall.
- c. Saturday April 4, 2020 the Roll Call is expected to complete all the names of those Brunswick County men and women who served and the 14 Nurses who served at Fort Caswell during World War I.

5. Now let us recognize some of our descendants from the Stanley family. We have the grandson, Fred Stanley, whose grandfather was Robert Bollie Stanley, Brunswick County's only POW who had a partial leg amputation before he made it home, married, and passed in 1961. A granddaughter, Deborah Bolin is present and will Roll Call.

A total of seven family members are in attendance: William Hill, Tilita Alexander, Mila Alexander, Deborah Bolin, Carol Hill, Ann Stanley, and Fred Stanley.

6. In the 1st group of Roll Callers we have 4 descendants.

As you listen carefully to each Roll Caller try to count the names that you have heard before, names in local papers, many of these are descendants. Our Roll Callers will be careful to speak into the mic loudly so that our listeners can hear you.

Thank you

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: All

Invocation:

Randy Lewis; Musician, *Back Porch Rockers*

Today we are here to continue honoring those men and women from Brunswick County who served our country in WWI so that we may stand here and still live in freedom. We need to be constantly reminded of our gift of freedom and of those who sacrificed to make sure future generations continue to know life in a free, democratic society.

Remembering those who served is only half of the task that is before us. We must also carry their love, honor and duty forward to future generations that will pass. Our children and grandchildren must know who they were, what they did and why they did it. To do anything less will be a disservice to their sacrifice and their memories.

Those who served our country created a clear pathway for us to continue on -- we must never waiver from that path of freedom and democracy. Take their memories, take their dreams and walk forward shouldering the cause of freedom -- carry it high and proud, they did and now you must walk forward for them..

Let us give thanks for the legacy of peace and wisdom they have left us. May we each be worthy in our own lives of that legacy.

Let us pray.

O Lord, on this Veterans Day we give you thanks for all our gifts, but today we give you thanks for these men and women who served in WWI from Brunswick County. Let us remember that these men left their families, their farms and their jobs to go to war in a strange land, spending time living in trenches, wondering if they would have food for the day or warmth from the rain and cold to continue the cause of peace and freedom. As we repeat their names today let us not forget the pain they suffered from wounds and sickness. We pray for those who never returned from the war and for those that did who may have suffered much in their life due to the trauma they experienced while in France. Let us remember these men and women and be thankful for the service they gave to the world. Amen

Brunswick County 1900-1921:

Gwen Clemmons Causey; Brunswick County Historical Society, Brunswick Town Chapter, NSDAR

As Brunswick County entered the twentieth century, progress was utmost in the minds of her people. Change had become the American way of life, and change was slowly arriving in Brunswick County.

Farm houses and country stores were sprinkled throughout the county from Little River, SC to Wilmington, NC; from the Waccamaw River near Ash to the Brunswick River that separated the county from New Hanover County; from the heart of the Green Swamp to Southport.

Southport had many small cottages surrounded by picket fences. Everyone had picket fences, even the churches and other buildings within the city limits. They had small patches of flowers in their yards and bountiful vegetable gardens. Most housewives raised chickens, not only for their eggs, but to have chicken on the table every Sunday. Housecleaning and cooking were done on Saturday. Sunday was a day of rest, church-going and visits to the relatives.

Southport was the largest town in Brunswick County. It was inhabited largely by fishermen and pilots, with a few military men and their families. The rural areas of the county were mostly made up of farmers.

Southport was the county seat and the location of the courthouse. Other towns were Shallotte, Bolivia, Leland, Ash, Town Creek and Supply. There were post offices in fifteen communities.

A new shell road from Supply to Southport was constructed in the fall of 1908.

The first automobile came to Southport in August 1910. The local newspaper reported that Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Stone of Little River, SC were in Southport recently. They were accompanied by Mr. Henry Bridgers, of Bladenboro, who brought them overland in his automobile, which was the first machine to reach Southport.

Wagons still dominated the countryside, but an occasional automobile could be observed on the country roads.

The road to Wilmington, now Highway 133 (River Road), was constructed in 1916, the road to Supply was improved in 1920, and Brunswick County got its first paved road in 1925.

In late 1916, R. D. White was running double jitney (bus) service between Shallotte and Wilmington. One car left Shallotte in the morning and made a round trip, and one left Wilmington in the morning and made a round trip.

The Wilmington, Brunswick, and Southern Railroad was completed in November of 1911. It was chartered as the Town Creek Railroad and Lumber Company in 1907.

The railroad tracks were built about one quarter mile to the west of Highway 17 with Bolivia as a principal stop. A crew of Russians were brought to help lay the railroad track.

The maiden run for the railroad was on July 2, 1912. When it reached Southport, the destination, there was a large celebration.

The military personnel at Fort Caswell referred to the W B & S as the “Willing But Slow!” Others referred to it as “Will Bump and Shake” or “Wiggle, Bump and Shake.”

Train traffic was suspended in 1941 and the railroad abandoned in 1943. As the railroad line was abandoned, and river transportation to Wilmington fell away, the W B & S maintained bus and freight service until the late 1940s.

In 1915 fewer than 20% of the homes in Southport had electricity. Power was available only during limited periods of the day.

In 1926 electricity was available 24 hours per day in Southport.

The interior of the county families had to depend on generators and oil lamps for light.

On February 1, 1916, rural mail delivery was established to cover 32 miles.

And, in 1916 there were two banks in Brunswick County, one in Southport and one in Shallotte.

Telephone communications were established with Wilmington and Southport in February 1918.

The entry of the United States into World War I brought significant change to Brunswick County. By the end of 1918, nearly 1200 troops were stationed at Fort Caswell. Men who were qualified for military service were required to register in 1917, and by October of that year 70 local boys from Southport had been inducted.

The first military registration day in Southport for the elective enrollment of men was June 5, 1917. On that day it was taking place all over the United States. The court house was decorated with flags, bunting and Red Cross emblems. The white Civic Club assisted as white men were enrolled, and the black Red Cross unit assisted in the black registration. The total number registered at Southport on the first day was 84 whites and 100 blacks. In the afternoon there was a patriotic parade which passed

along the prominent streets in town. A number of men volunteered for service with the U.S. Coast Guard and were exempt from registration.

The Southport American Red Cross Chapter had been established on April 2, 1917.

During June 1917 the Southport Red Cross were making arrangements for beds and bandages in case there should be a naval bombardment of Fort Caswell. Ladies knitted socks for the men.

The Southport chapter of the Red Cross assisted in the organization of a Red Cross auxiliary in Winnabow on June 20, 1917. About 25 ladies attended the organizational meeting and 13 joined the group.

In July 1917 George Randolph Scott and a friend, Andrew Hariss, enlisted in the service and then reported to Fort Caswell to join the Coast Artillery Corps of the North Carolina National Guard. They remained with the Coast Artillery until transferred to the 2nd Trench Mortar Battalion of the 19th Field Artillery in anticipation of overseas service in the spring of 1918. Yes, Randolph Scott, known primarily for his roles as rugged cowboys and dashing military officers, was stationed here on Caswell Beach.

The first draft call for Southport men was held August 1, 1917. Twenty-one of the town's residents were inducted. And, in the same month the new Army and Navy Club was opened.

The second draft call for Southport men was held two weeks later on August 16.

On September 20, 1917 the first floor of the Mechanics Building at Southport was opened as a lunch room for the many soldiers in town. It was called "The Dainty" and was operated by the ladies of the Episcopal Church. The food was home cooked and included rolls, breads, doughnuts, pies, cakes, oysters, clams, shrimp, with coffee and tea. Prices were to be kept low. The lunch room was not far from the fort dock and was convenient for the soldiers.

On September 21, 1917 three recently drafted men from Southport were given a formal sendoff at the courthouse. After speeches by nine people refreshments were served by the Army-Navy Club.

On October 11, 1917 a patriotic rally was held in Southport. After three speeches, a large chorus of school children gave a musical program. A short analysis was given of the reasons for the United States to be at war with Germany. It was titled "Democracy versus Barbarism."

My grandfather had just married my grandmother in 1916 and there were the parents of a daughter born in May, 1917. He lived on a farm in Supply and traveled to

Southport to be inducted on October 15, 1917. He and six other men traveled to Camp Jackson, SC and were officially accepted on October 26, 1917. My grandfather returned from France and was discharged on June 25, 1919.

Southport, as it had been during virtually all this nation's wars, was a mustering point, and men came here to be shipped out from Fort Caswell. Most went first to Camp Jackson, South Carolina, then overseas. The new railroad station at Rhett and Moore Streets was a busy place, as troops arrived and departed from here.

Soldiers didn't get rich. At induction the pay was about \$11.20 per month and when discharged it was up to \$18.40 per month.

The Army and Navy Club, established at the Masonic Lodge on Nash Street in Southport, served as a social gathering spot, and operated a Canteen which advertised as serving lunches and carrying a good line of candies, soft drinks, tobacco, cigars, etc. A notice in the newspaper said that "orders for pies, cakes, doughnuts and hot rolls will receive careful attention. We do our own baking."

There was an article in the Social News section of The Wilmington Dispatch newspaper of November 18, 1917. "On Wednesday afternoon the Civic Club held its annual donation meeting. The hostesses served dainty wartime lunches."

At the meeting a Christmas box was packed and sent to Miss Susie Williams, a Southport girl who is a Red Cross nurse in France. She went with a Red Cross unit from New York. She wrote that she wanted to know of any Brunswick County boys who may be sent to France so she may look after them with particular interest and care.

In December 1917 a quarantine was established in Southport due to a threat of a measles epidemic. For several days some married soldiers stationed at Fort Caswell were prevented from visiting with their wives living in Southport.

The influx of people to the community brought with them diseases. In 1918 influenza spread through Brunswick County and during the first week of October, 500 of the 1200 troops at Caswell were infected and seven had died. This placed great pressure on the community health services.

The men from the Army units from this area considered themselves fortunate that they did not come home right away. There were not enough ships available to return all the troops so many remained in Europe for another year—my grandfather being one. Also, Dr. J. Arthur Doshier.

In October and November of 1918, the whole area was ravaged by the epidemic of Spanish Influenza. More than half of the residents of Southport caught the flu.

The draft depleted the local work force so much that in November 1918 laborers from Puerto Rico were brought to Brunswick County to fill vacant positions in industries hit hard by the flu.

The Puerto Ricans were not prepared for the unusually cold weather, and many had to be taken to the hospital at Fort Caswell to recover from influenza and pneumonia. They were ill-clad and not prepared to survive in the extremely cold weather that they encountered on their ocean trip. Twenty-five died in November alone, and were taken to Wilmington for burial. In December, another 25 died. On December 27, 1918 over 100 of the immigrants were picked up at Fort Caswell by the steamer City of Savannah and from there returned home.

The Red Cross secured the services of a nurse, Lena W. Jason, who had served 15 years in Puerto Rico, to aid the sick Puerto Rican laborers in the hospital at Fort Caswell.

Patriotism in Brunswick County didn't die on that day in November, 1918. The years ahead brought Flag Day observances, 4th of July celebrations and Armistice Day remembrances.

On June 14, 1919 a large and elaborate celebration was held in honor of National Flag Day, with veterans from the Civil War, Spanish-American and World War I participating. The Lt. Governor was the orator. There were flag raising ceremonies, parades, and community singing. The veterans of the three wars were honored at a banquet.

And Southport observed the 4th of July, 1919 in a very quiet manner as its patriotic celebration had been staged on June 14th. The stores were closed and a number of citizens made up picnic parties to Bald Head Island or Fort Caswell.

Patriotism abounded in Southport and in all areas of Brunswick County.

Now, return to November 11, 1918.

At long last the war was over—"the war to end war", the Great War, we now call World War I. The Armistice was signed to take effect November 11, 1918, at eleven o'clock on the morning of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

The American boys who fought so bravely to "make the world safe for democracy" came home.

That is, except the thousands whose bodies rest in Flanders' fields where "poppies grow between the crosses row on row."

Can you remember that November day? Can you hear every whistle that could make

a sound? Can you hear every horn that could blow? Can you hear the bells (both large and small) ringing? Can you hear the band that had gathered? Can you hear the voices laughing? Can you hear the singing and talking? Can you hear the prayers of thanks being offered?

This was in the normally quiet little town of Southport and in the surrounding countryside of Brunswick County. And, it was being repeated all across our thankful and war weary America.

Sources: "Joshua's Legacy" by Susie Sellers Carson and Jon C. Lewis.

"Lelia Jane A Very Gentle Lady" by Susie Carson and Larry Maisel.

"The History of Brunswick County North Carolina" by Dr. Lawrence Lee.

"Fort Caswell In War and Peace" by Ethel Herring and Carolee Williams.

"Southport (Smithville) A Chronology Volume II (1887-1920)" by Bill Reaves.

"Rails to Weeds" by Charles Kernan.

"Bolivia, Our Town" by Earleen Danford Shorey.

"Brunswick County Chronology" by Bill Reaves.

Roll Call: Brunswick County WWI Veterans

The Roll Call resumes for all WWI Brunswick County veterans. The first list of names were called at the April 6, 2018 Commemoration. The list today consists of names called by the following participants.

Fred Stanley	Grandson of Pvt Robert Bollie Stanley
Deborah Bolin	Granddaughter of Pvt Robert Bollie Stanley
David Lewis	Grandson of Lt David Elton Lewis
Dale Spencer (last minute substitute: Martha Koletar)	Great niece of Wagoner Jackson Berry Potter

Firing of the Cannon:

Southport Historical Society Firing Crew

Continuation of Roll Call: Brunswick County WWI Veterans

Dan O'Neill	Caswell Beach Commissioner
George Kassler	Caswell Beach Commissioner
Tom Luken	Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range Secretary/Treasurer
Marvin Johnson	Southport Historical Society
Teresa McLamb	Brunswick Town Chapter, NSDAR
Kristin Stone	VP, Caswell Dunes Board
Pat Steele	Brunswick Town Chapter, NSDAR
Phyllis Wilson	Brunswick Town Chapter, NSDAR

Firing of the Cannon:

Southport Historical Society Firing Crew

Benediction:

Randy Lewis; Musician, *Back Porch Rockers*

In 1918, in the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated. After four years of bitter war, an armistice was signed. The "war to end all wars" was over.

On Armistice Day, soldiers who survived the war marched in a parade through their home towns. Politicians and veteran officers gave speeches and held ceremonies of thanks for the peace they had won.

Americans hoped that this war would be the last one. Unfortunately World War II began not long after, and nations great and small once more participated in a bloody struggle.

Today, we continue to remember the women and men who have sacrificed over the years to bring freedom and peace to an entire world. Not only do we remember our Brunswick County men and women from WWI, we remember those from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, The Gulf War, and NATO peacemaking efforts in Bosnia, and Albania, and finally today -- in our fight against terrorism on our shores, in Afghanistan, and in Iraq.

Togo D. West, Jr., Secretary of the Army in 1997 said, "War is an uncertain business and yet on every uncertain day that our nation has had to face the grim business of defending itself and others, Americans have stepped forward."

And today we are still stepping forward, sacrificing many things that civilians take for granted, in order to be part of the vision for peace for our world.

Today though, we come and remember not just the men, not just the women from Brunswick County, but all those who have sacrificed. It is not about gender, it is about going to war with a unit, risking your life with them, it is about believing in peace - and living a life based on that belief.

Let us give God thanks for the legacy of peace and wisdom they have left us. May we each be worthy in our own lives of that legacy.

Let us pray.

O Lord, we give you thanks for all our gifts, but today we give you thanks for these men and women of Brunswick County who served in World War I and sacrificed for all people across the world who believed in continuing the cause of peace and freedom. Amen

Taps