

**SOUTHPORT  
(SMITHVILLE)**

**A Chronology**

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By  
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Benjamin Smith  
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- 1890 - (March 12) - Malcolm Robbins, son of Dr. A.H. Robbins, suffered a severe wound when a piece of wire struck his right eye. After much suffering, the eye was removed by Drs. Wood and Love, of Wilmington. It was considered a very delicate operation.
- 1890 - (March 17) - The "Cape Fear Coaling and Contracting Company" was organized in Southport. The officers included Mr. Fergusson, president and general manager; W.H. Pyke, vice president; Charles H. Smith, secretary and treasurer. The directors were J. J. Adkins, W.H. Pyke, William Weeks, J.A. Pullan, J.T. Pinner and M. Fergusson.
- 1890 - (March 18) - The Cape Fear Cornet Band was organized in Southport, with Mr. Samuel Drew as manager and band leader. There were eleven members and a practice session was held once a week. Ed. H. Cranmer, Jr. was secretary and Asa Doshier was treasurer.
- 1890 - (March 21) - The Evergreen Park and Cemetery Company, of Southport, will begin work on the new cemetery soon, about 1½ miles from town. Ten acres of land was purchased for the cemetery.
- 1890 - (March 22) - Work was progressing daily on the Southport Brick and Tile Company's site on Walden Creek. Several acres were cleared and buildings were constructed for the workmen and roads were laid out. A foreman from the North was due to arrive.
- 1890 - (March 22) - In a special edition of a Wilmington newspaper, the following was written: "This is the old town of Smithville under a new name. It is one of the most pleasant places, winter and summer, on the whole Atlantic coast. Fort Johnston, now abandoned by the United States, was located here and the beautiful and so long well kept grounds afford opportunity for making a splendid park, and with the proper effort and enterprise, Southport would be one of the prettiest and most attractive seaside resorts. It has good hotel accommodations for a limited number of guests, and the locality is healthy, cool and salubrious. It is only three miles from the mouth of the river, and nearly all vessels arriving at, or departing from Wilmington, come to an anchor opposite the town. The population is composed largely of pilots, fishermen and those whose calling is "upon the great deep," and they are hospitable, warm-hearted and ever ready to extend a cordial welcome to strangers. Fort Caswell, in ruins and abandoned, is within a short distance, and is a place of historic interest.  
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