

**Collection:** LITTLETON, TUCKER R., PAPERS  
Swansboro, Onslow County, North Carolina  
1951-1976

**Physical Description:** Letters, newsclippings, photographs, photocopies, brochures, pamphlets, programs, typewritten manuscripts, deeds and tax records, notecards, softbound reports, maps, newsletters, notebooks, tintypes, various miscellaneous documents and papers. In 17 Hollinger boxes, 4 flat boxes, 2 card boxes.

**Acquisition:** Gift of Tucker R. Littleton, received on various dates, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981. Accessioned August 24, 1976, February 17, 24, 1977, March 22, 1977, September 16, 1977, February 27, 1978, March 28, 1978, June 26, 1978, November 13, 1979, May 28, 1980; and by bequest, January 27, 1984, accessioned May 30, 1984.

**Description:** Tucker Reed Littleton, local historian, minister, genealogist and author, was born March 3, 1936, to James Reed Littleton and Neta Parkin Littleton; died August 15, 1983, at the age of forty-seven.

Mr. Littleton graduated from Swansboro High School in 1954. He attended Wake Forest University, where he graduated magna cum laude in 1957, with a bachelor's degree in English and Greek, and a minor in education. While at Wake Forest, he was a member of Beta Beta Beta and Eta Sigma Phi fraternities, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa honorary society.

Mr. Littleton pursued an avid interest in local history for his entire life. In 1980, he helped to organize the Swansboro 200th Anniversary Celebration and served as chairman. He was also involved with the Carolina Charter Tercentenary Committee, and the North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission. He wrote and published a book of poetry, Shore Songs, and many articles on fishing, "fish tales," and local history. He belonged to several historical associations, and maintained a lifelong interest in archaeology, folk tales and music, and genealogy. Prior to his death, he had been named chairman of Onslow County's 400th Anniversary Celebration and had served nearly two years of a four-year term as a member of Swansboro's board of town commissioners. Mr. Littleton was widely known for his expertise on North Carolina's coastal history. He was twice named recipient of the Smithwick Award, presented annually by the North Carolina Society of County and Local Historians to the author of the best story published in a North Carolina newspaper or magazine on some aspect of the state's history.

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Description (cont'd)

Perhaps the most important single item in the Tucker Littleton Papers is his three volume work, the Civilian History of the Camp LeJeune Area, from Earliest Settlement to 1941, published under the auspices of the Coastal Zone Resources Division of Ocean Data Systems, Inc. It is an extremely detailed local history, containing maps, pictures, quotations from old newspapers, and appendices with material from the colonial period, such as lists of property holders, schools, teachers, churches, mills, stores, industries, immigrants and emigrants to Onslow County and the Jacksonville area.

Another interesting part of the collection is the material dealing with archaeological sites. Large notebooks filled with site descriptions and locations, from Onslow, Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, and Pender counties and from some other areas in the southeast. Much of this material is also on file at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Mr. Littleton's Cultural Resource Study of the Raleigh Durham Airport Area, in which he evaluated the significance of historical sites in the area contains descriptions of archaeological sites.

The correspondence includes matters concerning the 200th celebration of Swansboro, the Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission, the Confederate Centennial Commission, his efforts to get various articles and poetry published, personal letters from friends and family, inquiries from genealogists, responses to his inquiries on historical and genealogical matters, and some church related materials.

There are a large number of photographs relating to the Swansboro and Onslow County area, many of which are copies of those already in the Archives/Iconographic collection; however, many contain further identification penciled in on the back by Mr. Littleton. Perhaps 15% of the photos are original -- the rest are copies. About 80% are identified. They include portraits of people, Swansboro residences, businesses, boats, the waterfront, street scenes, a cattle drive, the lumbermill and company, boat building, Coast Guard and lifesaving stations, local churches and schools, and hurricane disaster scenes. Most of the photos date from the period c.1890 to 1930.

Arrangement

- P.C. 1604.1 Correspondence, 1951-1958
- P.C. 1604.2 Correspondence, 1959-1960
- P.C. 1604.3 Correspondence, 1960-1961
- P.C. 1604.4 Correspondence, 1949, 1952-1960

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Arrangement (cont'd)

- P.C. 1604.5 Correspondence, 1961-1962
- P.C. 1604.6 Correspondence, 1963-1976
- P.C. 1604.7 Archaeological Site Notebooks  
Brunswick County  
Carteret County  
Other states (SC, GA, KY, FLA, TENN)
- P.C. 1604.8 Archaeological Site Notebooks  
Onslow County  
New Hanover  
Pender County  
Excavation Report
- P.C. 1604.9 Civilian History of Camp LeJeune, from Earliest Settlement to 1941, Vol. I, II, III  
Cultural Resource Survey of Raleigh Durham Airport Area
- P.C. 1604.10 Genealogical Material, Onslow County
- P.C. 1604.11 Newsclippings  
Activities  
Articles by Tucker Littleton  
Articles by Littleton in The State Carolina Coastal Dispatch, 11 & 12, 1971, 1, 1972, 1974, 6, 1979  
Carteret County News-Times, Nov. 22, 1963  
F. C. Salisbury (Historian)  
Miscellaneous (oversize)  
New Bern Mirror, Feb. 20, 1959  
Swansboro, Onslow, Carteret History
- P.C. 1604.12 Newsletters  
Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission, 1961-1963  
Brochures  
Papers  
Carolina Comments, 1960-1964  
North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission Newsletters, 1960-1965
- P.C. 1604.13 Swansboro and Onslow County History  
Onslow County Mullet Festival  
Mullet Festival Programs  
Onslow County School Teacher Directory, 1962-1963  
Onslow County Tax Notices, 1955-1974  
Tidewater Rambler, 1954, 1961  
North Carolina Society of County and Local Historians, Constitution  
White Oak Scenes, 1963

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Arrangement (cont'd)

P.C. 1604.13 (cont'd)

White Oak Scenes, 1963  
Fitzhugh Morris Papers  
"Patrols"  
"Richlands"  
"Highways"  
"Starkey and Schools"  
"Enemy in Jones"  
Emmerton School, Unitarian Church  
Bogue Inlet  
Ormand Journal (1792), Typescript  
Manuscripts

P.C. 1604.14 Programs, Brochures, Pamphlets, etc.

Baptist Churches, Programs  
Graduation Programs  
N.C. Forest Resources Camp Program  
Certificates (Navy Training, High School Teaching)  
Account Book, Neta Parkin Littleton  
Wake Forest College Directory 1957  
Sam Ervin  
Edmund A. Harding, cards

P.C. 1604.15 Programs, Brochures, etc.

Brochures, Pamphlets  
Posters, Announcements  
Programs  
Hillsboro Historical Society Newsletter, 1963-1964  
Newsletters (Other)

P.C. 1604.16 Onslow County, Miscellany

Old Documents, Deeds, Tax Records  
Genealogical Notes  
Historical Papers and Notes  
Shipping  
Maps  
Swansboro Papers and Notes  
Set of Notecards, "Burns", "Swansboro", "Snapdragon",  
"War of 1812"

P.C. 1604.17 Swansboro 200th Anniversary

Papers  
Calendar  
Property Owners, 1776  
Brochures and Pamphlets  
Christmas Decorations Workshop

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P.C. 1604.18 Photographs

People, Snapshots  
People, Old Portraits  
William Henry Hill & Family  
Robert Spence McLean  
Emmerton School  
Piney Grove Baptist Church  
Coast Guard, Lifesavers  
Isaac Weeks, Cattle Drive  
Cemeteries

P.C. 1604.19 Photographs

Swansboro Scenes  
Onslow County, Swansboro  
Swansboro Residences  
Other Counties  
Morehead  
Negatives

P.C. 1604.20 Photographs

Artifacts  
W. E. Cox Store  
Swansboro Land and Lumber Company  
The Ocean Wave (Boat)  
Matthews Bros. Boatbuilders  
Boats  
Waterfront  
Boatbuilding  
Map

P.C. 1604.21 Photocopies of Newspapers

Raleigh, Oct. 17, 1926, on Swansboro  
Onslow Messenger, Mar. 31, 1904  
The Exponent, Kinston, April, 1898  
The Wilmington Journal, Feb. 6, 1857  
Belgrade Courier, May 9, 1901  
Onslow County Record, Mar. 25, 1937

P.C. 1604.22 Genealogy Cards, A-L

P.C. 1604.23 Genealogy Cards, M-Z

See also, mfp. 243, Microfilm. Tucker Littleton Research Notes,  
five reels.

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FINDING AIDS:

Main Entry Card:

Geographic Cards: Brunswick County  
Camp LeJeune  
Carteret County  
Jacksonville  
New Hanover County  
Onslow County  
Pender County  
Raleigh Durham Airport Area  
Swansboro

Subject Cards: Archaeology  
Boats, Boatbuilding  
Camp LeJeune Area History  
Carolina Charter Tercentenary  
Colonial History  
Confederate Centennial  
Fish Tales  
Genealogy  
Newspapers, Early North Carolina  
Onslow County History  
Photographs, Swansboro and Onslow County, c. 1890-1930  
Swansboro History

Autograph Cards: Sam Ervin

Finding Aid Completed, April 14, 1986, by Mary Frances Morrow, under the direction of C. Edward Morris.