



Dale Spencer, descendant and great niece of Wagoner Jackson D. Potter.



Brunswick Town Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution wreath presented.

Fort Caswell Rifle Range continues to honor those who served

On the morning of Saturday, April 6, the rain stopped, the sun came out and the wind blew as Brunswick County residents began to gather at the site of the 1918 World War I Rifle Range Target Pit in Caswell Beach.

They came to observe the continuation of the Roll Call of the 725 men who served in the Great War. In their places were the Brunswick Town Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, sponsors of the commemoration.

Metal folding chairs were at a premium but the lack of seats did not discourage the 70-plus people arriving to watch, participate and honor the valor of the men who sacrificed their lives to free those in Europe in 1917.

Many of the first to arrive were the JROTC Cadets from South Brunswick High School. The freshness of their youth and the dedication of the task at hand was evident as they straightened their neckties and berets and gave "Old Glory"

a slight fluff before heading to the lower section of the rifle range property.

After the audience was welcomed, the cadets paraded to the center. These energetic young people were a welcome sight to the multi-generations gathered. The North Carolina flag was lowered, exposing the American flag. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the National Anthem was sung.

Of special interest were four descendants of Brunswick County WWI veterans calling the names from families who helped settle Brunswick County: Glenn Kye, son of 1st Sgt Lee Kye; Kathryn Kalmanson, granddaughter of Mechanic Ledrew Sellers; Dave Lewis, grandson of Lt. J.G. Dave Elton Lewis; and Dale Spencer, great-niece of Wagoner Jackson D. Potter.

Their presence is like a link to the veterans from a century ago. Any interested descendants are welcome to participate in future Roll Calls. Southport Historical Society's cannon

"Thor" was fired after the first group completed their lists.

Ethan Pannkuk, who earned the rank of Eagle Scout after completing his community project at the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range, called the next set of veteran names. Riley Cheek, a JROTC Cadet, was next followed by Deborah Ahlers, mayor of Caswell Beach; Christine Urick, Brunswick Town Chapter NSDAR and professional photographer; Diane Price, Jayne Rankin and Helen Radcliffe of Brunswick Town Chapter NSDAR; James Griffin, Ocean Greens supporter; Willie Hahn, Arboretum resident; and Marvin Johnson, Southport Historical Society. Fifteen people in total participated in the Roll Call.

Jim McKee's speech brought attention to the woman from Southport, known as the "Great Dame," who gave a dramatic speech in support of the war immediately after President Wilson declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917. Her speech helped encourage men of the area to enlist in the military.



Cindy Sellers, Jane Johnson and Mary Mears sing WWI songs.



JROTC Color Guard marches in.



Ethan Pannkuk, Roll Call participant.



WWI re-enactor Carl Mauney shows gas mask.