

# WWI and WWII Snapshot: Samuel Benjamin 'Bunn' Frink, 1899-1989



Samuel Bunn Frink as senator (photo by State Port Pilot May 8, 1935, p.1).

Senator

BY NORMAN ECKARD AND AMY ECKARD  
GUEST COLUMNISTS

*This article was written by Amy Eckard and Norma Eckard, members of the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range.*

Samuel Benjamin "Bunn" Frink attempted to serve in World War I while underage and was honorably discharged. He later became a lawyer and was known as "The Perry Mason of Brunswick County." Throughout his life, he served his country by holding many political offices and positions, as well as serving in World War II.

"Bunn" was born on Oct. 2, 1899, in Shallotte.

On May 1, 1917, Bunn enlisted in the U.S. Navy in Wilmington. He served for over a month until June 15, 1917, when he was declared underage and honorably discharged. By the time he turned 18, the war had ended.

Records show another Brunswick County WWI veteran, John Newton of Bessemer City, attempted to enlist at Fort Caswell and was discovered to be underage. This notation was found on Pvt. Newton's NC WWI Service Card.

Under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved March 2, 1929, (Public No. 950 - 70th Congress), "in the administration of any laws conferring rights, privileges or benefits,

upon honorably discharged soldiers, their widows and dependent children, the above-named soldier shall hereafter be held and considered to have been honorably discharged."

Bunn lived over 89 years. His accomplishments are displayed at his gravesite in Stanaland Cemetery in Brunswick County.

Samuel Benjamin Frink was always known as Bunn. His legal signature and name on the letterhead of his law office was "S. Bunn Frink." No one will recognize him by his real

name. But mention the name Bunn Frink in Brunswick County and you'll get lots of responses, even now. He really made a big impact on the county in many ways. He was a man of integrity, and always a gentleman.

The Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range are having a book signing Saturday, Nov. 7, weather permitting, outside at the Caswell Beach Town Hall from noon to 3 p.m. Please wear a mask and be sure to social distance.

The book, titled "Brunswick County in the Great

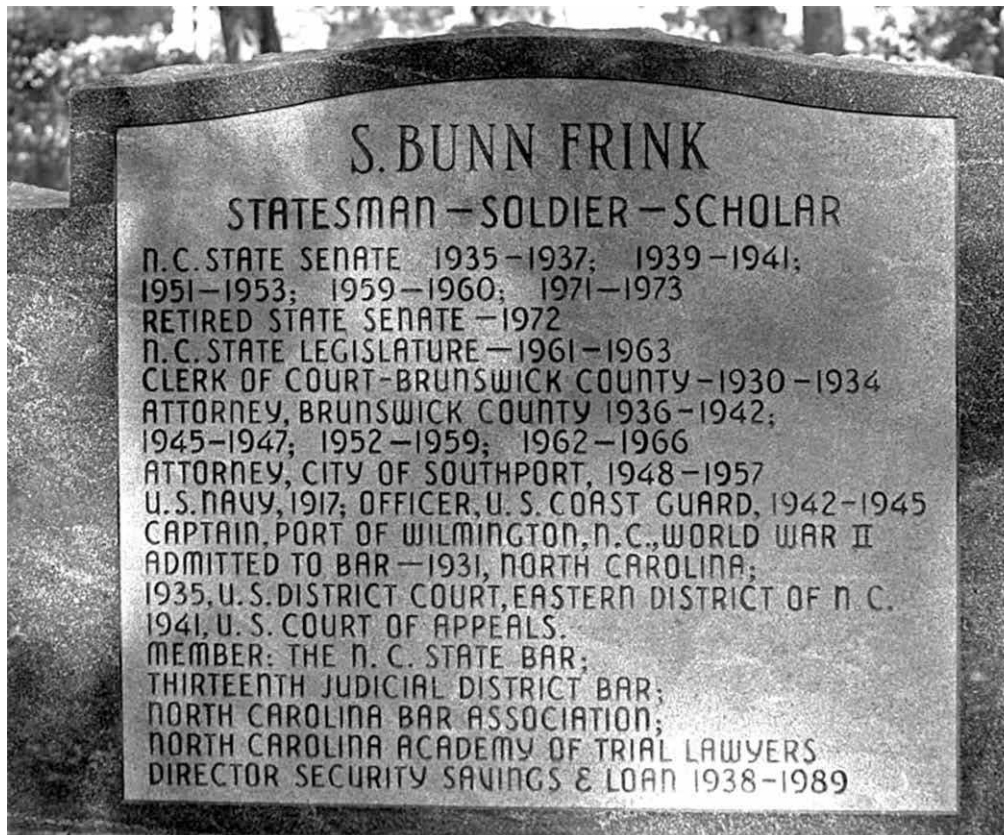
War: Preserving the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the Legacies of the Men and Women Who Served," is written by Amy Eckard, Dr. Norma Eckard and Ronald Eckard.

The book is 8-1/2 by 11 inches and has 584 pages. It gives the history of the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range, a list of the 718 Brunswick County veterans who served in WWI, the 14 Fort Caswell nurses who served at the fort during WWI and much more.

Go to [caswellriflerange.com](http://caswellriflerange.com).

Name FRINK, Samuel B.		Service Number 117-54-27			
Enrolled at Wilmington, North Carolina New Hanover County		Date 5-1-1917			
Rate Seaman		Branch of service U.S. N. R. F.			
Born at Shallotte, North Carolina Brunswick County		Date 10-2-1899 Color white			
Home address: no home address given		Served on active duty			
Marine Hospital, Wilmington, N.C.	From 5-1-17	To 6-15-17	seaman	From 5-1-17	To 6-15-17
Honorable Discharge 15 June 1917, Marine Hospital, Wilmington, N.C. as seaman because of underage enrollment.					

NC WWI Service Card of Samuel Frink.



Samuel Bunn Frink headstone.