

## **Neuse, CSS, State Historic Site and Governor Richard Caswell Memorial** <sup>[1]</sup>

### ***Neuse, CSS, State Historic Site and Governor Richard Caswell Memorial***

by G. Eugene Brown, 2006



"Hull Remnant of the CSS Neuse."

Courtesy of NC Historic Sites.

<sup>[2]</sup>The <sup>[3]</sup>CSS <sup>[4]</sup>Neuse <sup>[3]</sup> State Historic Site and Governor Richard Caswell Memorial <sup>[3]</sup>, located on U.S. Business 70 in Kinston, is administered as a single 46-acre tract, although it commemorates two unrelated historical events from different centuries. One features the hulk of the CSS Neuse <sup>[4]</sup>, a Civil War <sup>[5]</sup> gunboat constructed by the Confederacy <sup>[6]</sup> in 1865 in a vain effort to recapture New Bern from Union forces. The ironclad <sup>[7]</sup> gunboat, built alongside the Neuse River <sup>[8]</sup>, failed in its objective because it was too large, the river was too shallow at the time, and the enemy threatened to capture it. Scuttled by its builders, the *Neuse* sank to the bottom of the river, from which it was recovered in 1963. Now located beside the river and protected by an overhead shelter, the keel is preserved as an interesting relic. Adjacent at this historic site is a visitors center with informative displays and artifacts from the boat.

Nearby is the other featured portion of this site: the family cemetery in which Governor Richard Caswell <sup>[9]</sup> (1729-89) is buried. In a separate building there are exhibits on Caswell as a colonial official, a Revolutionary War officer, and the first governor of North Carolina as an independent state.

#### **References:**

Clayton Brown Alexander, "Public Career of Richard Caswell" (Ph.D. diss., UNC-Chapel Hill, 1930).

Leslie S. Bright, William H. Rowland, and James C. Barden, *C.S.S. Neuse: A Question of Iron and Time* (1981).

Richard F. Knapp, ed., *North Carolina's State Historic Sites: A Brief History and Status Report* (1995).

#### **Additional Resource:**

NC State Historic Site: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/neuse.htm> <sup>[3]</sup>

#### **Image Credit:**

"Hull Remnant of the CSS Neuse." Courtesy of NC Historic Sites. Available from <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/main.htm> <sup>[2]</sup> (accessed May 18, 2012).

#### **Subjects:**

Civil War (1861-1865) <sup>[10]</sup>

Places <sup>[11]</sup>

#### **Authors:**

Brown, G. Eugene <sup>[12]</sup>

#### **Origin - location:**

Lenoir County <sup>[13]</sup>

Kinston <sup>[14]</sup>

#### **From:**

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. <sup>[15]</sup>

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#### **Links**

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/neuse-css-state-historic-site-and-g> <sup>[2]</sup> <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/main.htm> <sup>[3]</sup> <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/neuse.htm> <sup>[4]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/neuse-css> <sup>[5]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/civil-war> <sup>[6]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/confederate-party> <sup>[7]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/ironclads> <sup>[8]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/rivers/neuse> <sup>[9]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/caswell-richard-research-branch-nc> <sup>[10]</sup>

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