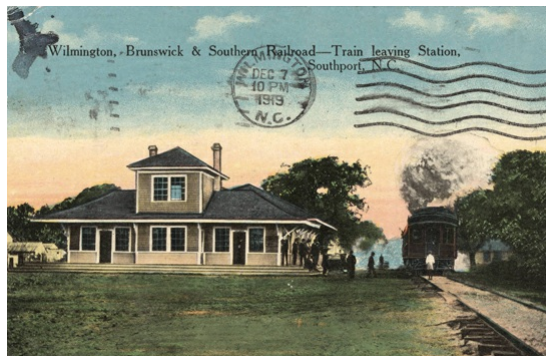


Wilmington, Brunswick, and Southern Railroad ^[1]

Wilmington, Brunswick, and Southern Railroad

by George A. Kennedy, 2006

See also: [Transportation: Air and Rail \(from NC Atlas Revisited\)](#) ^[2], [Railroads](#) ^[3]



Postcard of the Wilmington, Brunswick and Southern Railroad station in Southport, N.C., circa 1919. Image from the North Carolina Collection of the

The Wilmington, Brunswick, and Southern Railroad (WB&S), originally known as the [Wilmington, Brunswick, and Southern Railroad](#) ^[4] as the Town Creek Railroad and Lumber Company, was chartered in 1907 by local interests to provide freight and passenger service between a connection with the [Atlantic Coast Line Railroad](#) ^[5] and the [Seaboard Air Line Railway](#) ^[6] at Navassa, west of the [Cape Fear River](#) ^[7] bridge, the heart of [Brunswick County](#) ^[8], and Southport. A 30-mile line was completed in November 1911 by a rather indirect route through Town Creek and Bolivia. According to local legend, the abbreviation WB&S inspired the nickname "Willing, But Slow" when a small locomotive, despite valiant puffing, was unable to start a trainload of [World War I](#) ^[9] soldiers on holiday until many of them got off and gave the train a push. Unlike other Wilmington railroads, the WB&S remained an independent operation throughout its history. Service was discontinued in 1941 and the road abandoned in 1943.

Reference:

Charles Kernan, *Rails to Weeds: Searching Out the Ghost Railroads around Wilmington* (1988).

Additional Resources:

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Coleman, Alan. *Railroads of North Carolina*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing. 2008. http://books.google.com/books?id=z6WwRrRfdUoEC&pg=PA112&ots=5wYP3d_4Ky&dq=%22Wilmington%2C%20Brunswick%2C%20and%20Southern%20Railroad%22&pg=PA112#v=onepage&q=%22Wilmington,%20Brunswick,%20and%20Southern%20Railroad%22 ^[12] (accessed August 2, 2012).

Image Credits:

"Wilmington, Brunswick, & Southern Railroad--Train leaving Station, Southport, N.C." in [Durwood Barbour Collection](#) ^[13] of North Carolina Postcards (P077), North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill. http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/nc_post/id/4177 ^[4]

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Authors:

[Kennedy, George A.](#) ^[18]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina](#), University of North Carolina Press. ^[19]

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