It is with real pleasure that I come to talk briefly to you this morning about one of my favorite subjects — the town of Bath. I assume you that I shall indeed be brief. If you share, even in part, the excitement which ancient streets and ancient buildings evoke in me, I am certain that you must be eager to tour this town and visit some of its buildings. I imagine you wish to say to me as Sherlock Holmes was wont to say to his devoted biographer — "Quick Watson, the game's afoot."

The town of Bath is truly an old settlement. Long before the first settlers from the Albemarle began to filter southward and patent land along the Pamlico, Indians had established a town upon this site. Here was located the principle town of the Pamptico tribe. The Pamptico were members of the great Algonquian family

of Indians and the most southerly representative of that great linguistic group. Just before the arrival of settlers in this region in the 1690's a great smallpox epidemic swept through the Pamptico tribe. And the Pamptico who numbered well over a thousand were reduced to fifteen fighting men and forced to abandon their village and settle on a more easily defended island in the Pamlico

The white settlers who began to pour into this area in the 1690's were also struck with its beauty and its potential as a town site. Thus, when some of the early settlers of this area determined to establish a town in the opening years of the eighteenth century, it was here that they fixed upon a location for their town.

The founding of Bath was in its way a startling event in North

Carolina history. When Bath was incorporated by act of the Gen. Ass. in 1705 there was no other town in N.C. though the colony was well over forty years old. More than this, the settlements along the Pamlico were in their infancy. the entire region was raw frontier country in sharp contrast to the more mature and populous Albemarle area to the north. The Albemarle area had successfully resisted ~~so times~~ many determined efforts by the owners of Carolina, the Lords Proprietors to bring about the establishment of towns there.

Why then was Bath founded?

The answer ~~appears~~ apparently lies in the ~~hopes~~ ultimate of its founders who envisioned its development as a great colonial port — Roanoke and Currituck Inlets through which most of the seaborne trade entered the Albemarle area during the seventeenth century, had by the late 1690's become nearly choked with drifting sand. For this reason Roanoke

Inlet became ever more important as an entry into the Carolina sound. As this inlet lay closer to the Pamlico River settlements than those in the Albemarle it was assumed that this region would become within a short while the commercial center of the colony. To serve as a focal point for this expected ~~com~~ surge of commerce Bath was brought into being.

Sometime prior to 1705 David Perkins who had taken up the land on which Bath now stands sold about sixty acres of his plantation to Joel Martin, Simon Alderson, and John Lawson. ~~and~~ These three men then proceeded to lay out a town which ~~began~~ in 1705 was incorporated as the town of Bath by the Gen. Ass. which named the purchasers of the site as the town's first commissioners.

From this time forward the growth of the town was slow. The dreams of a great and bustling port city which must have filled the thoughts of its founders proved an illusion.

Though the hopes & dreams of its founders failed to materialize, Bath, small though it remained, had its moments with history.

One is confronted with many of these moments:

a est of first library

Tuscarora war - fort - 300 w + oy.

Cary Rebellion

(d) Pirates - 1718

(e) Meetings of Ass. + June 26 1746 episode

On that day the Lower House read & passed for 3rd time only the approval by the Upp. House of the bill on its 3rd reading was necess to enact it into law

(f) On May 6, 1775 when an express rider

Wm Brown + Roger Ormond

EAST CAROLINA COLLEGE

GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA