

Small Town, Big Heart

A horrendous storm hit the Town of Burgaw the morning of September 19, 1878. The winds were so strong, it blew the new house belonging to I. H. Brown to the ground. At the time, there were three individuals in the house, Joseph Dupree, A.M. Allen and Capt. Sharp's son. Joseph Dupree was badly injured when the whole weatherboarding side of the house fell on him. A.M. Allen and Capt. Sharp's son were able to escape serious injury by falling or jumping into a hole in the floor for the chimney.

I.H. Brown, at the time of the accident, was the Pender County Register of Deeds. He was the second Register of Deeds for the County since its creation and served for 6 years from 1876 to 1882.

This was a time when the whole Town of Burgaw came together to help their neighbor. Soon after the house collapsed, citizens came to rescue of those trapped in the rubble. It was difficult to safely extricate all three trapped inside, but all were removed without loss of life. The people of the town further came together to raise \$150.00 for I.H. Brown to rebuild his home. While that might not seem like a lot of money when it comes to building a house, it was approximately \$3,840 today's value.

The Storm in Pender—Accident.

A correspondent at Burgaw gives a very graphic account of the storm at Burgaw. Yesterday morning, just before the arrival of the Northern train, the new house belonging to Mr. I. H. Brown, Register of Deeds, was blown to the ground. Three persons, Mr. Joseph Dupree, Mr. A. M. Allen and Capt. Sharp's son, were caught in the house when it fell. Their cries soon brought the citizens to their rescue, and after considerable difficulty the parties were all gotten out. Mr. Dupree was badly hurt, the whole of the weatherboarding on one side of the house having fallen upon him. It is hoped, however, that his injuries are not serious. The other two fortunately fell or jumped into the hole in the floor left for the chimney, and were not seriously hurt.

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Brown in the severe loss he has sustained, and the good citizens of Burgaw have manifested the same by subscribing \$150 to assist him in rebuilding. Mr. S. P. Hand will be in Wilmington in a few days, when he will receive any subscriptions any of our citizens may wish to make towards assisting Mr. Brown in his trouble.—*Star*, 13th inst.