

## Ashwood Plantation on the Cape Fear River

By Jeannette Holland Austin



### Cape Fear River

John Baptiste Ashe owned a large plantation on the northwest branch of the Cape Fear River in Bath County, North Carolina which he called "Ashwood." Also included was another plantation called "Turkey Point" which was located on the north side of the river; a plantation called "Stumpy Island" on Stumpy Sound, and 2,560 acres on Rockfish Creek.

Ashe was doubtless the wealthiest landowner in the district. His children were well educated in Latin and Greek and sent to the best schools in Virginia to learn French. At the time of his death, his wife had already predeceased her so he ordered that a brick vault be built at Grovely and the body of his wife was taken up out of the earth to lie there. When Bartram's Travels was written "Ashwood" still stood because the home was

eloquently described in that book and the Bartram family owned it and it later fell into Bladen County. More information concerning the Ashe family is available to Members of North Carolina Pioneers.