

Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

P.O. Box 623, Carolina Beach, North Carolina 28428

Newsletter

Volume 12 No. 10

October, 2005

Darlene Bright, editor

October Meeting

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will meet Monday, October 17, 2005, 7:30 PM, at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

A special program, “**Postcards and Photographs: Glimpses of Historic Carolina Beach, Part II!**”, will be presented by Elaine Henson and Beverly Tetterton. If the saying, “a picture is worth a thousand words” is true, think what old postcards of Carolina Beach can say about its past. This powerful power point presentation could prove to be one of our most dynamic programs. You don’t want to miss this one.

Elaine began a collection of postcards about three years ago after she and her husband, Skip, purchased a 1940’s house on the north end of Carolina Beach. She now has over 160 cards of the Federal Point area and continues to collect. Elaine and Skip are natives of Wilmington and graduates of NHHS and UNCW. They are members of our Society and Elaine serves on the board of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society at the Latimer House and has been active in many other community activities since retiring from teaching.

Beverly Tetterton serves as the Special Collections Librarian in the North Carolina Room of our downtown library. She has lived in Wilmington for 25 years and is an authority on local history and architecture. She is a preservationist and serves on the board of Historic Wilmington Foundation and was on the Wilmington Historic District Commission for ten years. In 2001 the *Raleigh News and Observer* named her Tar Heel of the Week. She was the creator of Port City Architecture Online which won a 2004 award for the best library digital project in the Southeast. In 1999 and 2000 she and husband, Glenn, co-authored two volumes, entitled, *The North Carolina County Fact Book*. Beverly has a new book coming out in November which is a companion volume to her popular New Hanover County TV programs, entitled, *Wilmington Architecture: Lost But Not Forgotten*.

Members and the public are cordially invited. Refreshments will be served after the meeting

Last Month

Ms. Robin Robertson conducted oral history interviews with long time Carolina Beach citizens, Jimmy Davis, Milton Warwick, and Ted Prevatte, in preparation for her Master’s degree dissertation. The three brought up memories of Carolina Beach in earlier days between 1930 and today. The informal discussion prompted enthusiastic participation by many in the audience of approximately 50 members and guests.

Ms. Robertson, residing at Kure Beach, plans to share the product of her efforts with the Federal Point History Center. The Society is grateful for her contribution promoting the history of our area.

Message From Your President

By Judy Rhudy Thompson

Well, I thoroughly enjoyed listening to Milton, Jimmy, and Ted last month as they talked about their experiences growing up on the island. Robin has told me that she would love to get another panel together maybe in the early spring to learn more. We learned things that no one would find out researching books.

The first of autumn has brought us some beautiful weather! Let’s hope it continues and the “systems” discontinue! I know it’s taken most of us these last few weeks to get all cleaned-up after Ophelia, and, I hope no

one suffered too much damage. On a nicer note, I've seen a few trees blooming from the stress of the wind. Hopefully, they will bloom again in the spring.

Don't forget to vote next month. And that's all I better say about that! See you soon!

North Carolina, Reluctant Confederate

(Extracted From "North Carolina" by H. T. Lefler and A. R. Newsome, UNC Press)

As other southern states seceded from the Union, North Carolina was on the verge of isolation with pressure from all sides. Once seceded, North Carolina seemed determined and enthusiastic to support the cause.

Governor Zebulon Vance, elected by the Conservative Party, felt North Carolina was driven out of the Union against its wishes by northern abolitionists and mistaken policies of southern secessionists. He wished to preserve states rights and opposed the Confederate Party who advocated a strong central government and a disregard for states rights. Vance's defense of rights of North Carolina and its citizens won friends at home, but did not set well with Jeff Davis and the Confederacy. Vance and other Conservative leaders charged that Davis, in making appointments to high civil and military positions, discriminated against North Carolina in general and against Conservatives and prewar Unionists in particular. North Carolinians held no position in the Confederate cabinet, except that of attorney general during the latter part of the war. Discriminations in military appointments were even more offensive to Vance and other state leaders. Out of seven full Confederate generals, not one was from North Carolina. Braxton Bragg was born in the state, but he was a resident of Louisiana at the time of his appointment. North Carolina had only two lieutenant generals out of nineteen. It had only eight major generals and twenty-six brigadier generals, while Georgia with fewer soldiers than North Carolina had thirty-six of the latter rank. Vance constantly complained that "outsiders," particularly Virginians, were being appointed to command North Carolina troops, and he thought the reason for this was that Davis and other Confederate officials were suspicious of the "loyalty of the great body of our people, because of the great reluctance with which they gave up the old Union."

Vance laid the matter of officering state troops with North Carolina men before the General Assembly and urged it "to take such steps as would preserve the rights and honor of the state." He declared, "It is mortifying to find entire brigades of North Carolina soldiers in the field commanded by strangers and in many cases our own brave and war-worn colonels are made to give place to colonels from distant states." On January 3, 1863, he informed the Confederate Secretary of War that the Confederate government was appointing citizens of other states to important non-military posts in North Carolina. He was especially disgusted that Colonel August had been appointed as commandant for conscripts in North Carolina, and declared that this was tantamount to an announcement "that North Carolina has no man in her borders fit to command her own conscripts" and that such action "smacks of discourtesy to say the least." Colonel August was finally replaced by Peter Mallett. Vance protested to Confederate officials against the selection of West Point generals who "ride roughshod over the people, drag them from their homes, and assign them, or rather consign them to strange regiments and strange commanders, without regard to their wishes or feeling." He declared that he "knew more about conditions in North Carolina than all the West Pointers in the service."

The state's interest in local defense brought it into conflict with the Confederacy early in the war. One of the most bitter conflicts between the state and Confederate government related to the raising of troops. Before the enactment of the Confederate conscription, Act of 1862, North Carolina officials insisted that all troops furnished to the Confederacy should be "tendered to the confederate government through the governor or some other authorized state agent." Governor Clark objected to the Confederate policy of "independent acceptance," declaring that it "interfered with the State filling its own quota and that it overreached the governor and compromised the dignity of the State."

The Confederate policy of impressing private property provoked bitter protest in North Carolina, especially in the West where food was scarce, mainly because of the shortage of labor. Vance denounced the "illegal seizures of property and other depredations of an outrageous character" by Confederate cavalry as worse than the plagues of the Egyptians, and he declared the seizure of food for horses from starving women and children to be a "grievance, intolerable, damnable, and not to be borne."

The Confederacy levied an occupation tax ranging from \$50 to \$200 and from 2 1/2 to 20 percent of the gross sales or business of merchants, auctioneers, brokers, lawyers, physicians, butchers, druggists, bankers, and a number of other business pursuits; hotels were taxed from \$30 to \$500 and theaters, \$500. There was an income tax of 1 percent on salaries from \$1,000 to \$1,500, and 2 percent on all over \$1,500. All trade in bacon, flour, corn, oats and dry goods during 1862 was taxed 10 percent. All agricultural products in hand on July 1, 1863, as well as salt, wine, and liquors, were taxed 8 percent; all moneys and credits, 1 percent. It has been estimated that North Carolina paid over \$10,000,000 in various Confederate taxes. But it was the tax in kind that brought forth the most bitter complaints. This was a tax of 10 percent of the annual farm production, above a specified exemption (fifty bushels of potatoes, twenty bushels of beans and peas, one hundred bushels of corn, and fifty bushels of wheat), which must be delivered by the producer to the nearest railroad station. North Carolina farmers grumbled about this law, but the state was the largest contributor to the tax. By June, 1864, North Carolina farmers had contributed to the Confederacy 3,000,000 pounds of bacon, 770,000 bushels of wheat, 75,000 tons of hay and fodder, and other produce worth \$150,000.

While the “dissaffection” in the state may have hampered the Confederacy at times, most of the criticism of the Confederacy fell far short of actual disloyalty. However, there was some manifestation of open disloyalty to the Confederacy. After the federal capture of Hatteras in 1861, a local convention in November of that year declared secession null and void and “elected” Marble Nash Taylor “governor,” but this farcical government was not recognized by the United States. In 1862, after the capture of much of eastern North Carolina, President Lincoln appointed Edward Stanly, a native of North Carolina then living in California, as military governor. Stanly evoked little popular support in the state, and he disagreed with the Federal authorities at New Bern and denounced the action of Federal troops as “guilty of the most shameful pillaging and robbery that ever disgraced an army in any civilized land.” Consequently, he resigned his office on January 15, 1863, thus ending the efforts to “reconstruct” North Carolina until after the war.

Society Notes

Support our Business Members!

A & G Barbeque and Chicken
 Bank of America
 Britt’s Donut Shop
 The Cottage Restaurant
 Friends of Brunswick Town
 Fort Fisher Restoration Committee
 Got-Em-On-Live Bait Club
 Hanover Iron Works, Inc.
 Historical Society of Topsail Island
 Laney Real Estate Company
 Dr. Vincent Smith, DDS
 Taylor’s Heating & Air, Inc.
 Tucker Brothers Realty Company
 Underwater Archaeology Branch

- **Membership Information:** Renewal notices are being sent on the anniversary of your joining the Society. If you have been receiving a newsletter, and we have not heard from you within 90 days of the billing date, your name will be placed in the inactive file and no newsletter will be sent. Thanks to all who have responded promptly! Our renewals are up! Your support of our local preservation efforts with your membership is very important as it is the lifeblood of our organization.

- **Welcome New Members! Gary and Kendal Doetsch and Bill and Birdie Clark,** all of Carolina Beach.

- The Membership Drive Picnic was held Saturday, September 17th, at Ryder Lewis’ home on the beach. The food was delicious and plentiful, the desserts colorful and beyond your fondest dreams. John Gordon, our Board Chairman, welcomed members, friends, and special guests. Fifty-two tickets were given to participants and ten were drawn to lucky winners of gifts donated by Generations of Carolina Beach, Sand Dollar Video, Squigley’s, Sterling Craft Mall, The Yankee Trader, and The

Checked Church. After considerable culinary consumption, participants lounged under a canopy of live oaks, taking in the sights and sounds of activity on the Carolina Beach canal at the edge of the property, all spending a delightful, southern afternoon. A big **THANK YOU** to the above businesses for their generous donations and especially to Ryder Lewis for inviting us and being such a wonderful host.

● **Old Fashion Down East BBQ Fundraising Event! October 29th marks BBQ day this year for the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society. Delicious BBQ plates will be sold between 11am and 4pm at \$5.00 per plate. Tickets are available at the History Center on Fridays & Saturdays between 10am & 4pm or at our Monday, October 17th meeting. Get yours now while they last. Sign up if you wish to help with the event.**

● **History Center News!** We had 35 visitors to our Center this past month. Thanks to our volunteers: Jeannie Gordon – 8 hours; Darlene Bright – 20 hours; and Leslie Bright – 13 hours. In addition to the time and talents of our volunteers, special thanks to Mike Cooper for donating copy of the 1941 Carolina Beach telephone book, to Susan Taylor Block’s donation of her latest book, “Tales of a Shirtmaker”, and to the folks at the Fort Fisher State Historic Site for their donation of “Wilmington Today, A Guide to Cape Fear Leisure”. The History Center is open every Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, or other times by appointment. D.K., Pat, and Cindy shared 34 hours working at the Center. Helping hands are always needed to work in doing inventory and indexing files, photos, and other materials. If you can spare an hour or two, please let us know.

● **2006 Attactions Dining and Value Guide Now on Sale!** What a Deal! Save money while supporting your local History Society! Only \$25.

● **Gossip, Graves and Grapes Tours of Oakdale Cemetery!** Friends of Oakdale Cemetery will host afternoon walking tours of the cemetery on Sunday, October 30, 2005. Join your friends for *Gossip, Graves and Grapes*, an innovative program in North Carolina’s oldest rural cemetery. Offered between 2 and 5 PM *Gossip, Graves and Grapes* features stories about intriguing, little-known citizens buried there, and lawn party delicacies and wine. The fee is \$35.00 and \$25.00 for members of Friends of Oakdale Cemetery. For more info, contact Janet K. Seapker – 762-6417.

● **First Annual Enchanted Airlie!** Every Friday and Saturday night from November 25th to December 7th, 5-9 pm, Airlie Gardens will be transformed into “Enchanted Airlie”. It will be alive with holiday lights and festivities for the whole family. There will be a model train display, Santa, a gift shop, food and beverages, performances all with a holiday lights show to dazzle all ages. They need many volunteers to make this possible. Call Susan Hickman at 763-1900 if you can help.

Officers

President – Judy Thompson
Vice-President - John Gordon
Secretary - Darlene Bright
Treasurer - Jeannie Gordon

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