

Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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

Newsletter

Volume 13 No. 6

June, 2006

Darlene Bright, editor

June Meeting

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 19, 2006, **6:30 PM**, at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

It is time again for the Society's annual covered dish supper. Bring your favorite dish and a friend. Be prepared to do some serious eating and vote for your favorite candidates. Yes, you heard it right, it is time for the annual election of Officers and Board Members. All Officers and five (5) Board Member positions will be elected. If you wish to be included on the ballot or know a willing member who wishes to serve as an Officer or Board Member, please contact Cheri McNeill, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee to get on the ballot.

Members and the general public are invited to attend.

Last Month

Richard Triebe spoke about events during the American Civil War he researched in writing his book, "On a Rising Tide." Drama, romance, intrigue, suspense, and murder were injected in his story around actual events to create his fictional work perhaps revealing the atmosphere, moods, and the dark side of Wilmington during the final days of the struggle.

Approximately thirty-three (33) members and guests were present for the lecture which included the prominent role blockade running played in the economy of the area and the extreme risk to achieve the profit.

Richard Triebe is a member of Federal Point Historic Preservation Society and with his keen interest in the American Civil War, we encourage his continued research for future projects. His book, "On a Rising Tide," is on sale at the History Center Gift Shop.

Message From Your President

By Judy Rhudy Thompson

Happy Summer Everyone! I had a great trip to Florida last month with my daughter and her husband and new baby, Hailey. Needless to say, Mother's Day this year was extra special. Oh, and I also added another aka, "Memel!" For now the question remains in limbo. Do we move to Florida?

I know everyone is busy with travelling or being the destination, graduations, weddings, etc., so whatever time any of you can carve out to help at the History Center will be greatly appreciated. Please call the Center at 458-0502, or Darlene at 458-8684.

Bring your families and friends to our meetings, or to the Center on Fridays and Saturdays to show off our fantastic collection of the past of Federal Point.

Our Society and the entire community was saddened with the death of Society member Mr. Eli Courie. We shall miss his pleasant smile and his contributions to the preservation of Federal Point history.

Madison Berg Essay Winner

(Our Society started the Historical Essay Contest hoping to promote awareness and interest in the local history of the Federal Point area. This year, the Committee enlisted Jo Wainright, who visited the 4th graders at Carolina Beach School dressed as Rose O'Neal Greenhowe. The students were asked to write reports on her presentation. Congratulations to Madison Berg who had the winning essay. Madison received a \$50.00 savings bond.)

Rose O'Neal Greenhow was born in Montgomery County, Maryland in 1817. Her nickname was "Wild Rose." She was rich and pretty, and a leader in Washington society. She was friends with James Buchanan and John Calhoun which helped her to be one of the most famous spies in the Civil War. She passed secrets to General Pierre G. T. Beauregard that helped him to win the battle of Bull Run. She also helped Jefferson Davis win the battle of Manassas.

She married Dr. Robert Greenhow and had 4 daughters. She was caught spying and put in jail in 1861 for one year with her 8 year old daughter, Little Rose, at the Old Capital Prison in Washington. She had a diary while she was in jail. After she served her time, she was sent by Jefferson Davis to spy in France and England. While she was there she wrote a book called, "My Imprisonment and the First Year of Abolition Rule in Washington." Her last letter to Little Rose was telling her to never forget when they were in jail. Little Rose wrote back saying she had forgot about them being in jail until her mom reminded her because she was so little. Little Rose cried herself to sleep because she remembered being hungry while she was in jail.

On October 1, 1864, Rose was coming back to the United States on her blockade runner ship named the *Condor*. She was spotted and chased by a Union warship near the mouth of the Cape Fear River, outside of Wilmington, North Carolina. During the chase, the *Condor* ran into a sandbar. A storm began, and Rose, fearing that she would be put back in jail asked the captain to send her and two friends to shore in a lifeboat. But because of the storm waves, the boat capsized. Rose drowned because she was carrying \$2,000 in gold. She was given a military funeral and buried with honors. The coffin was covered with a Confederate Flag and carried by Confederate soldiers. Her marble gravesite is at the Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington. Each year her grave is decorated on Confederate Memorial Day.

Society Notes

● **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! Your support, through membership and participation, is the lifeblood of our organization!

Help! The Membership Committee is looking for a volunteer to help with greeting members and guests at our regular monthly meetings. If you attend our meetings on a semi-regular basis and would be willing to step in for Jeannie when she is not present, please give her a call, 458-7880, or leave a message on the History Center phone, 458-0502.

● **History Center News!** The History Center is open every Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, or other times by appointment. We had 28 visitors at the Center this past month along with approximately 33 members and guests attending May's meeting. The **Historic Walking Tour and Picnic** was great! The weather cooperated and 32 folks attended (20 went walking). Thanks so much to Ray Flowers and Leslie Bright for taking time to lead the walking tour discussion of Civil War entrenchments in Carolina Beach. A big, big **THANK YOU** to **Charles and Wendy Clark**, of Rocky Point, for their donation of a complete set of all volumes of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies and one official military atlas of the Civil War. The books are in excellent condition and is a wonderful addition to our Research Library. Also, **Robin Robertson** donated a copy of her final project submitted to the University of North Carolina-Wilmington in

partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts, entitled, "Island Voices: Personal Memories of Carolina Beach Preserve the Past." Robin collected oral histories from some of the folks who had been around Carolina Beach for a long time, and by collecting those memories, she hoped that she would be helping to preserve a way of life that has now vanished, and just maybe, those memories would be enjoyed by others. Thanks, Robin, for this wonderful contribution! Thank-you to **Ken Burriss** of Wilmington, who donated a copy of a booklet he prepared, entitled, "Burriss Property at Federal Point 1800's." In preparing this

booklet, Mr. Burriss drew from stories in his memory and searched out land holdings by the Burriss family at Federal Point and what happened to the land. Another addition to our library is a copy of the book, "Robert E. Lee," by James I. Robertson, Jr. This book was donated by the Fort Fisher Chapter #2325 United Daughters of the Confederacy, in loving memory of Mary Jo S. McKitrick, who passed away recently. Mary Jo was a devoted member of the UDC and the Society. Thanks to our staff and volunteers: Darlene Bright-28 hours; Leslie Bright-11 hours; Jo Wainright-6 hours; DK Dempster-15 hours; and, Pat Bolander-18 hours. Volunteers are always needed! Please let us know if you can spare an hour or two.

Support our Business Members!

A & G Barbeque and Chicken
Austin & Son Garage, Inc.
BB&T
Bank of America
Britt's Donut Shop
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 Bros. Realty Company

● **Board of Directors Meeting and Budget Workshop.** Tentatively planned for July 10, 2006, 7:00 pm, at the Federal Point History Center. All Committee Chairs need to submit their plan and budget requirements to the Treasurer, Jeannie Gordon (458-7880), for the budget year beginning July 1, 2006, no later than June 30th, as the Board will be meeting to develop and approve the Budget at this meeting.

We always welcome contributions and letters. We look forward to hearing from you!

Officers

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

Lynn Benson
James Dugan
Ron Griffin

Directors

Mike Blasko
Ray Flowers
Jay Hockenbury

Leslie Bright
John Gordon
Cheri McNeill

Federal Point Historic Preservation Society
P. O. Box 623
Carolina Beach, NC 28428