

Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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

Newsletter

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Darlene Bright, editor

October Meeting

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 16, 2006, 7:30 PM, at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

Part II of a special program "Postcards and Photographs: Glimpses of Historic Carolina Beach, Kure Beach and Fort Fisher" will be presented by Elaine Henson and Beverly Tetterton. Part II will focus more on accommodations, fishing, boats, piers, boardwalk, beaches, and bathing beauties.

Elaine began a collection of postcards about four 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 out, which is a companion volume to her popular New Hanover County TV programs, entitled, *Wilmington Architecture: Lost But Not Forgotten*.

Part I of this powerful power point presentation drew more than 50 members and guests at last year's October meeting. Come early to insure your seat.

Members and the general public are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Last Month

Janet Davidson, historian with New Hanover County's Cape Fear Museum presented, "Flavor of the Carolina Beach Boardwalk during the 50's & 60's". Approximately 35 members and guests were delighted with Janet's power point production, following a recent exhibit at the museum on the subject. We, and the rest of the County, are fortunate to have Janet and her talents in our area since transplanting from Washington, D.C., where she worked at the Smithsonian Institute.

Message From Your President

By Judy Rhudy Thompson

What a great picnic last month! The afternoon was perfect, and of course, the setting was perfect. Dinner and desserts were delicious and we all enjoyed each other's company relaxing and chatting on the lawn. This was our annual Membership Drive Picnic, attended by approximately 35 members and guests, and greeted a couple new members. Daniel Norris showed us a proof copy of his new book, a pictorial of the area. We

hope they will be available at next month's meeting when Daniel will present the program on developing his book. Ryder Lewis, many thanks again for your southern hospitality.

Don't forget the Pleasure Island Seafood and Jazz Festival this weekend (Saturday & Sunday, October 14th & 15th) at Fort Fisher.

We are all saddened in the lose of two of our members and good friends, Mrs. Frances Griffin of Kure Beach, and Ms. Ann Stewart Guzman. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families.

I hope everyone is enjoying our delightful fall weather and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting Monday night.

Annual North Carolina Maritime History Conference **October 26th through October 28th**

On Thursday, October 26th, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, at Brunswick Town State Historic Site, Dr. Chris Fonvielle will present “A Place of Varied History, Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson,” and 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Elbert Felton will present “Small Port with Large Significance: Colonial Brunswick.”

On Friday, October 27th, 9:15 - 10:45 am, at Southport Community Center, Dr. Everard Smith will present “To Build Good Ships Quickly: World War II Shipbuilding,” and Dr. Max Williams will present “Spanish Incursions Along the Coast of Colonial North Carolina,” and 11:00am – 12:30 pm, Gordon Watts will present “Confederate Raider and Archaeological Treasure: Exploring the CSS *Alabama*,” followed by Richard Lawrence speaking on “Beneath the Golden River: Underwater Archaeology of the Lower Cape Fear.”

Beginning at 2:30 pm, a Cape Fear River Boat Tour aboard *Starship* will be narrated by Dr. Lindley Butler, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, and Richard Lawrence. A reception will follow at the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport, followed by dinner at the Southport Community Center and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Stanley South will speak on “Historical Archaeology in North Carolina”.

Saturday, October 28th, activities begin at Fort Fisher State Historic Site with tours of the Fort and Underwater Archaeology Branch Laboratory. Sami Seeb will speak on “The Eagles Island Ships’ Graveyard,” Dr. David Stewart on “Exploring Washington’s Maritime Heritage: East Carolina University’s 2006 Fall Field School,” and Mark Wilde-Ramsing on “Queen Anne’s Revenge Shipwreck Site.”

If you like maritime history and archaeology, this is a lifetime opportunity. Never have so many notable talents in North Carolina Maritime History met for a weekend to share what they know and have experienced preserving North Carolina’s Maritime History.

James Forte

(Extracted from “The Cape Fear Comprehensive Study,” by NC Department of Cultural Resources, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Claude V. Jackson, III).

During the late seventeenth century a fortification known as James Forte was supposedly located on the eastern shore of the Cape Fear River below Wilmington. Its noted location on the eastern shore still presents a mystery, since the earliest settlements were on the western shore. Nevertheless, supposedly for defense, the king provided a cannon and munitions that may have been placed at the small box-shaped James Forte. Various accounts have associated the fort with the attempted settlement of the region in the early 1660s by adventurers from Massachusetts or a group of settlers from Barbados led by John Vassall. The latter group began a colony, called Charles Towne, at the mouth of Town Creek on the Cape Fear River (then called the Charles River in honor of the king) in 1664, with Capt. John Yeamans appointed by the proprietors as governor. On what is today known as Clarendon plantation, the settlement reached 600 inhabitants before it was abandoned in 1667. Possible hostilities with the local Indians, who were often taken as prisoners by the New England men, may have contributed to the eventual withdrawal of the Clarendon settlers.

Two known maps from the period illustrate James Forte. The first is a rough sketch by John Locke in 1662, pre-Charles Towne, from the original of Nicholas Shapley. The original drawn by Shapley for his own use has been lost. The inked map shows James Forte as a crenellated building with two tiers surmounted by a flag. The location of the fort is shown to be on the eastern side of the Charles River, opposite four creeks

labeled from north to south respectively as the “Greens,” “Greenlakes,” “Hiltons,” and “Indian” Rivers. Indian River has been established as Town Creek.

The second map to show James Forte was drawn about 1679 by James Lancaster. The map is one of four manuscript maps from the Blathway Atlas located in the John Carter Brown Library. The Lancaster map shows James Forte as a crenallated tower. Flying above the fort is the flag of St. George – a red cross on a white field. The fort is located on the eastern side of the river opposite the same four “rivers” identified in the previous map. The exact site of James Forte has not been determined.

(Editor’s Note: *This would make a fine research project to locate the fort which may be in Federal Point*).

Society Notes

Support our Business Members!

A & G Barbeque and Chicken
Austin & Son Garage, Inc.
BB&T
Bank of America
Britt’s Donut Shop
Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc.
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

● **Membership Information:** Welcome to our new members: **Coastal K-9 Bakery** on Carolina Beach Road and **John and Marcia Bryan** of Lumberton!

● **Renewal Notices** are being sent on the anniversary of your joining the Society. We appreciate your prompt payment, saving the Society the expense of additional postage to send out a reminder. As dues invoices are mailed, we will be requesting an update of your personal information (address, phone, email address, etc). When you receive your next invoice, please take the time to verify your data and return the information form with your check.

● **Newsletters** are now available via email. If you wish to receive your FPHPS newsletter electronically, please send an email request to **fphps@yahoo.com**. To ensure that your message is not overlooked, please put the word “**NEWSLETTER**” in the subject line. **Thanks, Jeannie Gordon, Membership and Treasurer.**

● **History Center News!** The History Center is usually open every Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, or other times by appointment. However, the History Center was closed most of this past month due to a lack of volunteers, as indicated

by the number of visitors, which was a total of 11. Thanks to Darlene Bright-15 hours; Leslie Bright-10 hours; Jennie Gordon-7 hours; and Jo Wainright – 12 hours.

If you have pictures and/or memorabilia that you would be willing to donate or let us copy, please call 458-0502 to set up an appointment.

Also, please let us know if you can spare an hour or two. We desparately need you.

● **Gossip, Graves and Grapes Tour of Oakdale Cemetery!** Friends of Oakdale Cemetery will host afternoon walking tours of the cemetery on Sunday, October 15. Offered between 3 and 6 pm, the tours will highlight stories about intriguing, well-known and little-known citizens buried there, and lawn party delicacies and wine. Fee is \$35.00 and \$25.00 for members of Friends of Oakdale Cemetery. Advanced paid reservations are required. Phone 762-5682.

● **Historic Wilmington Foundation Battle Ballyhoo!** Friday, November 10th, 6:30 pm until midnight – Silent & live auctions, dinner and dancing at the Battleship overlooking beautiful, historic downtown Wilmington. Call 762-2511 for details.

● **2007 Attractions Dining and Value Guide** is now available for \$25.00. This is a great gift for Birthdays, Holidays, Special Occasions, and Employee Appreciation, and this is one of our easiest and best fundraisers for the Society. Purchase yours at the next meeting or pick one up from the gift shop.

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

Officers

President – Judy Thompson
Vice-President - John Gordon
Secretary – Ann Hertzler
Treasurer - Jeannie Gordon

Mike Blasko
Donna Godkey
Ron Griffin

Directors

James Dugan
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Ray Flowers
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