

Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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

Newsletter

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Darlene Bright, editor

September Meeting

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 18, 2006, 7:30 PM, at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

We are pleased to have Janet Davidson, historian with New Hanover County's Cape Fear Museum, come and share a bit of "Flavor of the Carolina Beach Boardwalk during the 50's and 60's".

Janet comes to the area from Washington, DC, where she worked at the Smithsonian Institute.

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

Membership Picnic and Social

To kick off its annual membership drive, the Society will be holding a potluck picnic from 4:30 to 6:30 on Saturday, September 23. The social will be held at the waterfront home of Ryder Lewis, 1314 St. Joseph Street. Look for the Lewis name on the mailbox. Members and the general public are invited to attend and learn more about the Society. Bring a covered dish, a lawn chair and prepare to have a good time! The Society will be furnishing the paper products and drinks.

Last Month

Mr. Sam Townsend of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, now retired, addressed approximately 27 members and guests of the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society. Sam related how Fort Fisher State Historic Site and the State's Underwater Archaeology program began in lower Federal Point in the late 50's and 60's. Sam played a major part in developing the first continuously operating underwater archaeology program in the country without the luxury of precedent. He pointed out many improvements in technology since the early days when we dragged a fowled anchor to locate shipwrecks. Thousands of historic shipwrecks and underwater cultural sites are being explored since the sunken blockade runner, *Modern Greece*, was discovered in 1962. Blackbeard's shipwreck, *Queen Anne's Revenge*, is being explored today.

Thanks to Sam Townsend for sharing his memories with us and the many years he served with the State preserving the history of North Carolina.

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.

Cape Fear Indians

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

Save for a few projectile points, little remains of the Paleo-Indians (12,000-8,000 B.C.) in the Cape Fear Region, probably due to inundation of coastal sites as the glaciers receded. The Archaic Period (8,000-1,000 B.C.) met with a slight increase in human population. Seasonally, small groups moved about, utilizing available resources, usually along salt marshes, rivers, streams, and swamps. Stone tools from this period appear usually smaller and more diverse, possibly due to availability of smaller game and trading outside the area. During the Woodland Period (1,000 B.C. – A.D. 1650), settlement patterns begin to appear with more reliance on cultivating crops and the use of ceramics.

Sedentary villages represent the largest single settlement type of the period. This shift in pattern from hunting and gathering camps is generally attributed to an increase dependence on domesticated plants, especially maize, and the collection of shellfish. During the Middle Woodland period ceramic types are similar between the North Coastal and South Coastal regions. The distinguishing trait between the two appears to be the manner of human burial. Found in the South Coastal region is an extensive distribution of low sand burial mounds unique to the region. The high frequency of secondary cremation, platform pipes, and other objects in the mounds and the fact that at least some of the mounds appear to be placed away from their contemporaneous habitation sites point to southern influence into the South Coastal region during this period. Fully developed horticulture characterized the Late Woodland (A.D. 800-1650), although protein was still obtained from hunting and fishing. Ceramic variations were frequently stylistic, although technological aspects such as tempering agents and firing techniques served as temporal and locational indicators. Lithic technology was a continuum of triangular points that generally decreased in size as the Woodland Period progressed. Siouian-speaking Waccamaw and Cape Fear tribes occupied the South Coastal region at the time of European contact. The settlement pattern during the Late Woodland was relatively dispersed, with site locations found along the sounds, estuaries, major rivers, and their tributaries. Most of the sites that occurred away from the barrier islands are found adjacent to streams or other bodies of water on high banks and ridges of sandy loams. Types of sites include capital villages (chiefdoms), villages, seasonal villages, and camps for specialized activities, as well as farmsteads likely occupied by extended families. Except for the camps, which appear to be directly related to seasonal gathering of shellfish, fishing, and perhaps collecting, all seasonal and larger villages are located where agriculture, hunting, gathering, and fishing could all be accomplished within the site catchment area. Exploitation of a wide range of habitats provided the needed food sources. Maize; hickory nuts; faunal remains of bears, deer, and a wide variety of small animals; alligators; terrapins and turtles; fish; and both marine and riverine shellfish have been found at excavated sites of this period. By the end of the Late Woodland period, cultigens of squash, beans, and sunflowers were being grown, as observed by European explorers.

Although no native name has been preserved for them, the Cape Fear Indians most likely were affiliated with the Siouan peoples located farther south. Only the name of a village, Necoos, and a chief, Wat Coosa, have been clearly identified with the tribe. It was probably the Cape Fear tribe that encountered the first Europeans

who attempted to settle along the Cape Fear river in the 1660s. Those early colonists bestowed the name on the Indians they found occupying the lands at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, and particularly the peninsula that presently forms the southern portion of New Hanover County. In December 1662 William Hilton, leader for the Charles Town settlement, met with Chief Wat Coosa on Big Island, in the Cape Fear River, where he purchased the river. It is doubtful whether the Indian Population of the peninsula ever exceeded a few hundred. A nineteenth-century historian described the Indians as follows: "The men are thrifty, industrious and peaceable; engaged principally in fishing during the shad season, and in cattle-raising upon the same range that was occupied two hundred years ago by their...ancestors". It is also possible that the name "Cape Fear Indians" applied to all the Indians living along the Cape Fear river, regardless of their tribal connection. In 1731 Dr. John Brickell, a naturalist and historian, traveled through the state and mentioned by name other tribes in the Cape Fear vicinity. In his published work, Brickell wrote: "the Saponas live on the west branch of the Cape Fear River; the Toterias are neighbors to them; the Keyaweas live on a branch that lies to the northwest". Historian Samuel A. Ashe wrote in 1908 that "the Cape Fear Indians along the coast weere Southern (Siouan). The Saponas who resided higher up were probably Northern (Algonkian or Iroquoian)". Other accounts claim that "the Indians on the lower Cape Fear are said to have been Congarees, a branch of the old Cheraws, and that soon after the settlement at Charles Town they were driven away.

Local tradition along the Cape Fear holds that in 1725, after having his plantation attacked, Roger Moore and a small force of neighbors and servants spotted the Indians "who lived on the Cape across from the plantation, at play and bathing in the river near Big Sugar Loaf, marched up the river out of sight, crossed over, and taking the savages by surprise, exterminated the whole tribe".

James Sprunt (1916) cites an account of a young gentlemen traveling to South Carolina in 1734 who stated that at least some of the Cape Fear and Waccamaw Indians still resided near Lake Waccamaw, 30 miles west of the Cape Fear River.

Archaeological and historical evidence further indicates that some Indians continued to exist in the Cape Fear Region until the early nineteenth century. By 1808 only one identifiable member of the Cape Fear Indians survived. By the mid-nineteenth century the last of the historic native population had disappeared, and only their modern-day descendants in South Carolina and western North Carolina, along with the archaeological remains of their settlements, remained. "Large Mounds of oyster-shells, many pieces of broken wicker pottery, arrow-heads, and other relics of the red men are still found on the peninsula below Carolina Beach. Remains of Indian settlement were frequently unearthed by the Confederates engaged upon the entrenchments around Fort Fisher". Archaeological evidence from those past inhabitants can still be found along the shores and tributaries of the Lower Cape Fear river.

Society Notes

- **Membership Information: Dear Members:** Newsletters are now available via email. If you wish to receive your FPHPS newsletter electronically, please send an email request to fpfps@yahoo.com. To ensure that your message is not overlooked, please put the word "NEWSLETTER" in the Subject line. Over the next year, as dues invoices go out, 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.

- **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! **Thanks, Jeannie Gordon, Membership and Treasurer.**

- **History Center News!** We have had some exciting happenings at the History Center this past month. We had 39 visitors to the Center, plus approximately 27 attending the August meeting. Thanks to our volunteers: Darlene Bright-12 hours; Leslie Bright-6 hours; Pat Bolander-18 hours; DK Dempster-3 hours; Henriette Weigle-7 hours; Jennie Gordon-10 hours; Lois Patton- 6 hours.

On August 26th, our Society presented a 50-year historic plaque to the Carolina Beach Community Church, c. 1940, (now Hope Memorial Baptist Church), during the Church's Open House Restoration Day.

Thanks to Ms. Sandy Mansur, who donated color photos of the demolition of the Ocean Plaza Building, and to Ms. Janet Harward Hern, who donated copies of photos and memorabilia saved by her father, Mr. Graham Harward, who came to Carolina Beach in 1945 and owned Harward's TV Service and Harward's Landscape.

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.

The following persons have made a donation to our Society in memory of Mr. Grover Lee Lewis: Rachel Bame of Kure Beach, and Ellen McCarty, of Conroe, Texas.

The History Center is open every Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, or other times by appointment. 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
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

● **Oral Histories.** The oral history committee wishes to thank Rachel Bame, Ryder Lewis, and Faye & Norris Teague for providing very interesting interviews. If you know of anyone who might have knowledge of early Carolina or Kure Beach, Seabreeze or the Monkey Junction area, please leave a message at the History Center – 458-0502.

● **The Annual BBQ Fundraiser has been postponed due to a conflict.** The First Baptist Church at Carolina Beach is having their BBQ and Silent Auction that Saturday. Watch for details on an alternative date and time.

● **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 4th Annual Shrimparoo** – a casual evening of seafood, beer & modern bluegrass music by L Shape Lot – Thursday, September 21st, 6-8:00 p.m., Elijah's Restaurant - \$20 for members and \$40 for non-members (includes a 1 year individual membership!) RSVP 762-2511.

● **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.

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

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