

Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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

Newsletter

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Darlene Bright, editor

May Meeting

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 21, 2007, 7:30 PM, at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

Ray Flowers, Site Historian at Fort Fisher Museum, will speak on two enemies, Colonel William Lamb, Confederate Defender of the Fort, and General Newton Martin Curtis, Union Assaulting Officer, who became close friends as fate brought the two military leaders face to face in combat during the Battle at Fort Fisher and again in a hospital after both were severely wounded.

Ray's presentation will also introduce the publishing of Colonel Lamb's and General Curtis' memories of the Battle of Fort Fisher by our Society, which Ray has helped to prepare.

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

Last Month

Our own Ron Griffin presented a magnificent lecture on the mechanics of performing proper genealogical studies. Ron articulately related the various steps and sources one might use to look up their ancestry from the basic to the fairly recent use of D.N.A.

Ron is a long time member and on our Society Board of Directors. He volunteers to help keep the History Center open to the public and is always willing to help. If you have a question about our history or genealogy, I will bet he can and will answer it. We are fortunate to have Ron Griffin in our Society.

Cape Fear River – Bald Head Island Historic Cruise

Sunday, May 20, 2007

1 to 6 pm

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold a LOWER CAPE FEAR RIVER HISTORIC CRUISE on Sunday, May 20, from 1 to 6 pm, featuring a one-hour visit to the "Old Baldy" lighthouse and the Bald Head Island Museum.

The guided tour and entertainment, on board the *Winner Cruise Queen*, will feature historians, John Golden, portraying Blockade Runner Captain Roberts, Jack E. Fryar, Jr., author of "A Guide to Wilmington & The Lower Cape Fear," and the "Coastal Chronicles" series, and Leslie Bright, retired from the Underwater Archaeology Unit at Fort Fisher.

Over fifty historic sites from Carolina Beach Marina, through the Intracoastal Waterway, and down the Cape Fear River will be identified. Bald Head Lighthouse, completed in 1817, is the oldest lighthouse structure standing on the North Carolina coast. Refreshments will be provided on the return trip.

Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at the Federal Point History Center, adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall, on Fridays and Saturdays, 10 – 4 pm, or by calling 458-8684, 458-0502. Please leave a message.

Message From Your President

Judy Rhudy Thompson

What ever happened to Spring? Not! Just kidding. The weather lately seems to be leaning towards winter rather than summer. Let's hope the wind slows down and the cold goes away by May 20th when we go for our Cape Fear River to Baldhead Island Historic Cruise. Speaking of which, I hope you all have gotten your tickets and have told your friends. I can hardly wait.

I hope you enjoyed all the Kure Beach's 60th Anniversary events this past month. It surely has been a fun time for everyone. We should celebrate every year in this fashion.

Remember the History Center needs you to volunteer. It's time to take a turn, maybe three hours each month. We need you!

Message From The Office

Rebecca Taylor

Hello Friends.

I just wanted to introduce myself to everyone, though I've already met many of you. I've just retired from the New Hanover County Public Library with 3 ½ years with the Sampson-Clinton Public Library and 26 ½ years at various locations here in New Hanover County, including the Carolina Beach Library once long ago (1981-1982). Though I was a generalist for most of my career I did manage to pick up a basic knowledge of genealogy and archival organization.

I also happened to have an undergraduate degree in history though my concentration in medieval Europe will be something of a stretch. I've already begun reading Chris Fonville's books and working though a list of books he recommends as a basic course for understanding the history of the lower Cape Fear region. I can't wait to get to the Blockade Runners!

I live beside Greenfield Lake in Wilmington with my roommate Gayle Keresey, who is the school librarian at Roland-Grise Middle School. You really don't want to know how many books two librarians can collect in 30 years! We have four cats, Talia, TJ, Ursula and Missy whose personalities run from utterly laid back and undemanding to "let me sleep on you" the moment we sit or lie down. Other hobbies include knitting, beading, and gardening, but I'm already finding that even in retirement, there just aren't enough hours in the day to get to everything I want to do.

Oh, and my Mom is Lois Taylor, who many of you know as a member of the Society. My love of history comes directly from her and her father, who was a high school history and civics teacher. I also have an aunt and uncle who moved to Raleigh from Ohio by way of Erie, Pennsylvania, and a sister and two nieces in Kernersville from Ohio by way of southern California. So I guess I'm directly responsible for at least part of the great Ohio migration to North Carolina.

I'll be at the History Center most Fridays and some Saturdays. I look forward to getting to know all of you at meetings and at the History Center. Feel free to call me if you need anything or want to volunteer.

Oh, and the questions I've answered this month:

- What is the shag?
- When was the Carolina Beach lake built and by whom?
- How do you find the remains of the old Dow chemical plant?

New and Notable...Books

Bland Simpson's newest book, *THE INNER ISLANDS: A CAROLINIAN'S SOUND COUNTRY CHRONICLE* was published late in 2006 by UNC Press. It continues his lyrical look at coastal North Carolina; the land, the sea, and the people who inhabit the spaces where the two come together. A creative writing professor at Chapel Hill, his remarkable *INTO THE SOUND COUNTRY; A CAROLINIAN'S COASTAL PLAIN* (1997 – UNC Press) took us along on his journey to rediscover his roots in eastern North Carolina's rich natural and human resources.

In *INNER ISLANDS* he narrows his search significantly and looks not at our famous Outer Banks but at the smaller and less well known islands that lie within our coastal rivers and sounds. Beginning with Machelhe

in the Pasquotank near Elizabeth City to Roan Island at the confluence of the Cape Fear and Black Rivers in Pender County's Canetuck Township. Bought from Wilmington's Corbett family in 1998 by the North Carolina Nature Conservancy, it is now managed as public game land by the North Carolina Wildlife Commission. Better known Eagles Island as well as its lesser known neighbors Campbell and Keg Islands get their share of attention. My favorite, though, is the book's final section on Simpson's trip by boat launched from the Carolina Beach State Park Marina down past Zeke's Island and Price's Creek Lighthouse then around Battery Island near the mouth of the Cape Fear where 8,000 to 9,000 white ibis nest each spring. In 2004, 11,839 nests were counted.

Copies of this intimate look at our special natural heritage are readily available from amazon.com and B&N.com both new and used It is also available for loan at all locations of the New Hanover County Public Library, including the Carolina Beach Branch.

Old North State Fact Contest

Are you smarter than a 5th grade history student? We are starting up a contest to learn how much you know about North Carolina. Starting this month a question will be asked on facts about our state and members and guests may write their answers on slips of paper and the first correct answer will win a prize.

This month's question is – What are North Carolina's two official state colors?

Society Notes

● **Membership Information:** We are pleased to welcome one member this month: **Susan M. Foy** of Carolina Beach. **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.

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.
Fort Fisher Restoration Committee
Friends of Brunswick Town
Got-Em-On-Live Bait Club
Hanover Iron Works, Inc.
Historical Society of Topsail Island
Laney Real Estate Company
Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Vincent Smith, DDS
Snow's Cut Monthly Magazine
Taylor's Heating & Air, Inc.
Tucker Bros. Realty Company

● **Elaine Hinson's book is almost here!** She is scheduled to sign copies of **A POSTCARD HISTORY OF CAROLINA BEACH** on Sunday, June 10 in the North Carolina Room at the New Hanover County Public Library in Wilmington. Elaine will be looking for all her FPHPS friends between 2pm and 4pm along with selling and signing this wonderful new resource for local history buffs.

● **Newsletters:** 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 now open on Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, or other times by appointment. Thanks so much to our volunteers: Jeannie Gordon, Leslie & Darlene Bright, Ron Griffin, Pat Bolander, Sylvia Snook, Jean Stewart, and Elaine Henson, who welcomed 46 visitors.

We are in desperate need of volunteers, especially on Saturdays. If you have some time that you can spare on any Friday or Saturday, please call 458-0502 – leave a message.

We need you!

Officers

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

Pat Bolander
Donna Godkey
Ron Griffin

Directors

James Dugan
John Gordon
Jay Hockenbury

Ray Flowers
Richard Graham
Sylvia Snook

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