



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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

Phone: 910-458-0502 e-mail: fphps@Yahoo.com

Newsletter

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Darlene Bright, editor



August Meeting Monday August 18, 2008

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 18th, at 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall. **Members and the general public are cordially invited.** Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

The speaker for our August meeting will be **David LaVere, PhD**, who is professor of history at UNCW. The program will examine NC native societies and cultures, particularly those living in the eastern part of North Carolina before the English arrived at Roanoke. He will speak on the pre-Columbian history of North Carolina as well as the differing roles of men and women and how their societies and economies functioned. His program will be illustrated with John White's classic 1586 sketches.

This program is made possible through a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council's Road Scholars Speakers Bureau. The North Carolina Humanities Council is a nonprofit and state affiliate of the National Endowment for Humanities.



**NORTH CAROLINA
HUMANITIES
COUNCIL**

Again we warmly welcome the general public to this and all our meetings.

July Meeting

Brad Holland and The Ft. Fisher North Carolina Military History Museum

The speaker for our July meeting was Brad Holland of the Ft. Fisher North Carolina Military History Museum located at the National Guard Training Center, Kure Beach, NC. Brad presented an inside look at this small local museum and presented a fascinating archival film on the 30th Division of the US Army National Guard and their actions during WWII. Brad also brought a number of WWII American and German artifacts and mentioned that the museum has no items yet from the First Gulf War: Desert Storm, though it is nearing twenty years since it was fought. A number of our members had questions and talked to Brad for quite awhile after his talk. Others noted the Museum's hours and days opened and vowed to visit him soon. FYI, the Museum located on the Air Force Recreation base is open 12-4 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

President's Message

August 5, 2008

I hope that you all are enjoying a pleasant summer (and a hot one as usual!) Like many of you, Sylvia and I have done a good bit of travelling this summer.

Among other places, we visited Arrowhead, the home of Herman Melville (where he wrote *Moby-Dick*), as well as the Mark Twain house and the Harriet Beecher Stowe house in Hartford, Connecticut. Such visits always remind me of the importance of historical preservation, not only of places associated with famous people, but perhaps even more importantly, those which are particular to preserving a region and its culture, especially the one our organization celebrates.

I look forward to another year of activities and programs which enhance our knowledge and appreciation of the Cape Fear region and its very special history.

Donald G. Snook, President

Historic Feature

Oral History: edited by Don Snook

The following summary, prepared by Donald G. Snook, is based on notes from the interview with Ruby Klutz Beavers, 9219 River Road, Wilmington, NC, 28412 conducted by Jeannie Gordon and Ann Hertzler of the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society. It attempts to highlight and summarize the life of this remarkable woman, as it illuminates the history of the area.

Ruby Beavers' Life in the Cape Fear/Carolina Beach/Kure Beach Area

Ruby Klutz Beavers' life is a living example of the history of the Cape Fear region. Moving to the beach during the depression, evacuating to Goldsboro to avoid a hurricane, dancing and playing at the Pavilion, helping her family run two boarding houses, raising a family, and working at a local corporation for twenty-five years -- all these experiences represent the grit and determination of a generation which saw incredible change.

Ruby Klutz was born in rural Rowan County, NC in 1925 to Arthur Klutz and Girlie (Earnhardt) Klutz. The family -- mother, father, one sister and four brothers, moved to the Carolina Beach area in 1930 in hopes of getting employment and improving her mother's health, and because of her father's abiding love for the sea. Her great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J.O. Ludwig ran a boarding house there (where the current Sea Merchants Grocery is located.) The family first rented a house, and then moved to the Winner's house (Carl Winner's parents). Her grandfather built some little cottages, and next the family moved to one of them.

Making a living was always a challenge. Her father fished (net in the daytime, and flounder gig at night) in Buzzard Bay, and her mother worked at the Bame Hotel. She and her siblings helped out at the boarding house, washing dishes and cleaning. The family kept a cow, and a garden for fresh vegetables. She fondly remembers helping her father gig for flounder, and falling asleep in the bow of the small boat. Later her brothers and father hauled trash, marl and coquina rock, and moved furniture. She also worked at a souvenir and beachwear store. Her father was a volunteer fireman.

School for Ruby and her classmates took place in Myrtle Grove School, which consisted of three classrooms, each of which held two grades! After sixth grade, students were bussed to Winter Park School for seventh and eighth grades, and then to New Hanover High School.

Among her many memories of the area are these of Kure Beach: playing hide and seek among the scrub oaks at Fort Fisher, the store there selling bait and soft drinks. Many of the mounds which were there are now gone, taken by the sea.

Independence Day was a major event in the area. Many of the textile mills scheduled their vacations for that time, and the houses at the beach filled with guests. Ruby and her siblings slept on the floor in the kitchen so that her parents could rent out all the bedrooms.

Swimming was a favorite activity for Ruby, but her mother insisted that she swim only where there were lifeguards. Another great source of fun was the Pavillion, where swings, slides, and little merry-go-rounds beckoned the children. Unfortunately for five-year-old Ruby, the play resulted in a broken arm; Ruby's arm was tied across her chest for healing. When it was discovered that the result was her inability to straighten the arm, she carried a bucket of sand around with her to remedy the situation.

A high spot of her social life was a date to the Fireman's State Convention, held at the Pavillion at Carolina Beach. Her mother made her a new yellow dress (she made all the family's clothes, of course, and taught the daughters to sew on the treadle sewing machine). Unfortunately, her date spilled coffee on it, and she had to go home and change clothes.

The beach was becoming a source of great entertainment. The Roof Garden at the Greystone Inn featured the big bands of the era; Ruby and her friends would watch the girls with their evening dresses, and listen to the music.

In 1940, Ruby Beavers married Amos Splawn. They had two sons, David Lee and Thomas Ransom.

After World War II, her husband farmed near Southport, raising tobacco, cotton, and Brahma cattle. The Beavers moved to Wilmington, and, for a short time, to Boone, NC. In 1962, she began a twenty-five year career with Singer Heating and Air Conditioning.

Mrs. Beavers remembers a number of Carolina Beach people and businesses which will be fondly recalled by others who have the good fortune to have lived in the area for many years, and, in some cases, newcomers too. Businesses she recalls include the Green Mandarin, Britt's Donuts, and David Lem's Chinese Restaurant. People recalled are Charlie the Ice Man, and any number of names long associated with the area, including Kure, Bame, Winner, and others.

The Society is grateful to Mrs. Beavers for sharing her memories of growing up in such a challenging and exciting time.

Books added to the Library

-- *Women in the Wild Blue: Target-Towing WAST at Camp Davis.* by David A. Stallman, Echoes Press, 2006. I've had several requests for more information on what was doing on in CB/KB/Ft. Fisher during WWII and this is a pretty amazing story. Women pilots weren't allowed to fly in combat so they volunteered to tow the targets for the men being trained on the anti-aircraft guns.

-- *The Wilmington Shipyard: Welding a Fleet for Victory in WWII.* by Ralph Scott, History Press, 2007. Another new resource about this area during WWII

-- *North Carolina Women of the Confederacy* by Lucy London Anderson, 1926. (revised and updated edition compiled by Cape Fear Chapter #3 United Daughters of the Confederacy, Winoca Press, 2006) A great resource that's finally available again.

-- *North Carolina Gazetteer: A Dictionary of Tar Heel Places* by William Powell, UNC Press, 1968. This is THE tool for researching the names of places in NC.

Also added to our archives this month is a copy of the final version of the *Carolina Beach Master Development Plan*, donated by the Town of Carolina Beach.



Support our Business Members!

BB&T

Bame Ace Hardware

Britt's Donut Shop

Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc.

Fort Fisher Restoration Committee

Frank's Pizza

Friends of Brunswick Town

Got-Em-On-Live Bait Club

Hanover Iron Works, Inc.

Historical Society of Topsail Island

Island Florals by Roxanne

Island Gazette

Island Tackle and Hardware

Laney Real Estate Company

B. Parker Protective & Lock

Pleasure Island Chamber of

Commerce

Pleasure Island Fresh Market

Dr. Vincent Smith, DDS

Snow's Cut Monthly Magazine

Taylor's Heating & Air, Inc.

Tucker Bros. Realty Company

Zerbe's Steak & Seafood

Society Notes

- New in the Gift Shop we now have the current *USGS survey maps for the Carolina Beach, Kure Beach, and Southport* sections at a cost of \$12.00 a map for those of you who love maps.

- **WE NEED YOU!** Our many committees are in the process of reforming for the new year. If you would like to pitch in, please call the Center (458-0502) and talk to Rebecca or leave a message and **WE WILL PUT YOU TO WORK!**

Current Membership

224 personal members

23 business members

- **Membership Information:** Debbie Price, Chairperson. We welcome two new members this month, **Virginia Lee Francis of Wilmington and Scott Ridgeway of Goose Creek, SC.**

Plans are already in the works for our September Membership Picnic, tentatively planned for Saturday September 25. Stay turned for

exact time and location – but start thinking of someone you know who you can bring – to tempt them into joining.

Gossip, Graves, and Grapes
Friends of Oakdale Cemetary
Sunday September 28, 4:00pm-7:00 pm

Friends of Oakdale Cemetary will once again host Gossip, Graves and Grapes – a spirit filled afternoon lawn party with delicious delicacies and wine. Dish the dirt with friends as you take a memorable walking tour in North Carolina’s oldest rural cemetary, visiting the graves of intriguing citizens associated with the creation and preservaton of Thalian Hall. Guests will be entertained by Tony Rivenbark and other Thalian actors as they teel the stories of some of the mosre fascination internees.

Gossip, Graves, and Grapes celebrates the 153rd anniversary of the opening of Oakdale Cemetary and the 150th anniversary of City Hall/Thalian Hall. The event has limited capacity; advance paid reservaitons are required. The tickets are \$35.00 (\$25.00 for Friends of Oakdale). To make an advance reservations, plesae phone the Oakdale Office at 910/762-5682

Mark Your Calendars!
Upcoming meetings and events of the FPHPS

Monday September 15: **Harry Warren** will tell us “Why North Carolinians are Called Tar Heels.”

[tentative] Saturday September 27: **Membership Picnic** – Bring a Friend who might like to join.

Monday October 20: **Elaine Henson** will present a program on “Bathing Beauties.”

Saturday November 1: **Barbecue Fund Raiser**

Monday November 17: **Jack Fryer** and several of his Dram Tree authors will showcases their newest books.

Saturday December 6: **Gift Shop Winterfair** Local authors signing their latest works, sponsorship displays, hand-made ornaments and other holiday treats for sale.

Monday December 15: **Our Annual Christmas Party and Potluck.**

Officers

President – Don Snook
Vice-President – Hazel Logue
Secretary – Lois Taylor
Treasurer - Jeannie Gordon

Pat Bolander
Elaine Henson
Ron Griffin

Directors

James Dugan
John Gordon
Jay Hockenbury

Ray Flowers
Cheri McNeill
Sylvia Snook

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