



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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Newsletter

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Darlene Bright, editor

December Meeting Monday December 15, 2008

In lieu of its regular monthly meeting, the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will have its annual Christmas Party on **Monday, December 15, at 6:30 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. Remember we meet one hour earlier, so we have plenty of time to “be social.”

Come prepared for a good time! Bring your favorite covered dish and invite your friends (prospective members.) Deborah and Jay Hockenbury will lead the entertainment again this year. I hope she'll do her wonderful rendition of *The Gift of the Magi* again. And, of course, John Golden be will playing traditional carols and songs for the group to sing along.

Also Upcoming! FPHPS Gift Shop Winterfair Saturday, December 6, 2008; 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Book Signing and Gift Shop Sale

The list of authors who will be available to sign their books is growing. **Among those who will be available are Elaine Henson, Anne Hutterman, Daniel Norris, Skipper Funderburg, Jean Nance, and Chris Fonvielle** -- with a new book published by Daniel's Slap Dash Press. So if there's anyone on your Christmas list who loves history, please stop by. If you can't make it on the 6th, let me know ahead of time the titles you'd like signed, and we can hold them for you to pick up later.

Gift Shop Extravaganza!

If you haven't been by the History Center in the last month, you haven't seen all the great stuff we've added. The new **Sweatshirts** are here: in denim blue and cardinal red! We ordered sizes L-XXL but we can do a special order in early December if there are other sizes you need. The shirts are only \$20.00 each. We also have **coffee mugs** with the FPHPS logo as well as **lanyards** for holding keys or name tags or whatever – never lose your keys again. We have added **puzzles and games** with Pirate, Civil War, and lighthouse themes, so if you're looking for a little something for your kids or grandkids, stop by and check things out. Oh, and to get you in the Christmas spirit, we have both of **John Golden's seasonal CD's**. *Tis the Season* includes old favorites like “I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas” and “Silent Night, while *O Holy Night* features favorite carols, such as “Little Drummer Boy” and “We Three Kings.” Remember, we're open on Tuesdays from 12-4 & Friday and Saturday from 10-4 right up until December 23!



November Meeting Jack Fryar, Jr. and David Norris

The book lovers in the crowd were in hog heaven this month (at our monthly meeting as opposed to our barbeque a few weeks earlier.) Publisher Jack Fryar talked about a number of Dram Tree's new releases including *Redcoats on the River* by Robert Dunkerly and Raleigh author Susan Adair's *Camp Follower*, a mystery novel set during the American Revolution. He then turned the floor over to David Norris who spoke about his new book, *Potter's Raid!* an account of the Union Cavalry's 1864 expedition into Confederate held territory including raids on Goldsboro, Tarboro and Rocky Mount.

Why We're All Called Tar Heels Reprinted by permission of the author William S. Powell Part 2 of 2

[Editor's Note: Harry Warren, Director of the North Carolina Forestry Museum in Whiteville, NC, passed this article along to us during his presentation at our August meeting. We thought it was so good that we wanted to share it with all the membership.]

A San Francisco magazine, *Overland Monthly*, in its August 1869 issue, published an article on slang and nicknames. The author cited a number of terms used in the Old North State. "A story is related," he wrote, "of a brigade of North Carolinians, who, in one of the great battles (Chancellorsville, if I remember correctly) failed to hold a certain hill and were laughed at by the Mississippians for having forgotten to tar their heels that morning. Hence originated their cant name 'Tarheels.'"

A piece of sheet music, *Wearin' of the Grey*, identified as "Written by Tar Heel" and published in Baltimore in 1866, is probably the earliest printed use of Tar Heel.



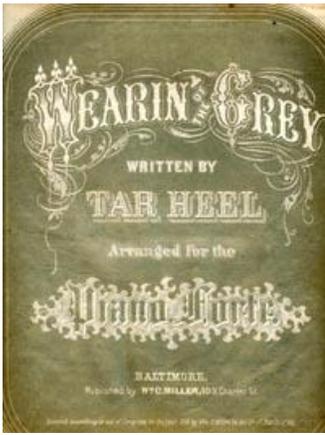
On New Year's Day, 1868, Stephen Powers set out from Raleigh on a walking tour that in part would trace in reverse the march of Gen. William T. Sherman at the end of the Civil War. As a part of his report on North Carolina, Powers described the pine woods of the state and the making of turpentine. Having entered South Carolina, he recorded in this 1872 book, *Afoot & Alone*, that he spent the night "with a young man,

whose family were away, leaving him all alone in a great mansion. He had been a cavalry sergeant, wore this hat on the side of his head, and had an exceedingly confidential manner."

"You see, sir, the Tar heels haven't no sense to spare," Powers quotes the sergeant as saying. "Down there in the pines the sun don't more'n half bake their heads. We always had to show 'em what the Yankees was, or they'd charge to the rear, the wrong way, you see."

As in this particular case, for a time after the Civil War, the name Tar Heel was derogatory, just as Tar Boilers had been earlier. In Congress on Feb. 10, 1875, a black representative from South Carolina had kind words for many whites, whom he described as "noble-hearted, generous hearted people." Others he spoke of as "the class of men thrown up by the war, that fine class of men I mean, the 'tar heels' and the 'sand hillers,' and the 'dirt eaters' of the South – it is with that class we have all our trouble..." The name also had a bad connotation in an entry in the 1884 edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* which reported that the people who lived in the region of pine forests were "far superior to the tar heel, the nickname of the dwellers in barrens." The *New York Tribune* further differentiated among North Carolinians on Sept. 20, 1903, when it observed that "the men really like to work, which is all but incomprehensible to the true 'tar heel'"

At home, however, the name was coming to be accepted with pride. In Pittsboro on Dec. 11, 1879, the *Chatham Record* informed its readers that Jesse Turner had been named to the Arkansas Supreme Court. The new justice was described as "a younger brother of our respected townsman, David Turner, Esq., and we are pleased to know that a fellow tar heel is thought so much of in the state of his adoption." In Congress in 1878, Rep. David B. Vance, trying to persuade the government to pay one of his constituents, J.C. Clendenin, for



building a road, described Clendenin in glowing phrases, concluding with: “He is an honest man...he is a tar heel.” In 1893, the students of The University of North Carolina founded a newspaper and christened it The Tar Heel. By the end of the century, Tar Heel – at least within the state – had been rehabilitated. John R. Hancock of Raleigh wrote Sen. Marion Butler on Jan. 20, 1899, to commend him for his efforts to obtain pensions for Confederate veterans. This is an action, Hancock wrote, “we Tar Heels, or a large majority of us, do most heartily commend.” And by 1912, it was a term of clear identification recognized outside the state. On August 26 of that year, The New York Evening Post identified Josephus Daniels and Thomas J.L. Pence as two Tar Heels holding important posts in Woodrow Wilson’s campaign.

So there it was in 1922, the stamp of credibility on Tar Heel. Surely an august institution such as The New York Evening Post would never malign two gentlemen of the stature of Daniels and Pence, no matter how bitter the presidential election campaign. The badge of honor stuck, and, in a manner of speaking, North Carolina residents who have sat back on their heels ever since, happy to be Tar Heels. Who’d want to be a Sandlapper, anyway?

We are Tar Heels – not “Tarheels”
Always write our name as two words, even when using
it as an adjective (e.g., “The Tar Heel tradition”
Tar [space] Heels

New Books in the Library

The Atlas of the Civil War by James M. McPherson

Nature Guide to the North Carolina Coast by Peter Meyer

Salt: A World History by Mark Kurlansky

The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope by Chris Fonvielle

The Tar Heel State: A History of North Carolina by Milton Ready

Society Notes

● **Membership Information:** Debbie Price, Chairperson. We would like to welcome new member **Nancy Kraus Sutera** of Stamford Connecticut to our Society. Hers was a gift membership, which reminds me to remind you that a **membership is a perfect holiday gift**, especially for friends and family who don’t live nearby but would love to keep up with the activities and history of good old Federal Point. Again this year we’ll offer a special “gift” certificate for you to present (or we can mail it directly).

**The Federal Point
History Center is now
open:**

Tuesday: 12-4

Friday: 10-4

Saturday: 10-4

● **History Center News:** Darlene Bright, Director. Our volunteers who helped keep the History Center open in November are Pat Bolander, Sylvia Snook, Juanita Winner, and Ron Griffin. In addition to approximately 35 members and guests at our October meeting, we had 35 visitors at the History Center, not counting the approximately 50-75 people who used our restroom while waiting in line to vote. In November both Got-‘em-on-live and the UDC held their monthly meetings at the History Center.

● Don't forget the **ATTRACTIONS Coupon books!** We have 36 to sell this year *and the price hasn't gone up!* They are still \$25.00 [of which we get \$10.00] and include hundreds of dollars worth of coupons. That means you get even more value for your money. With places like the Ocean Grill, Courtyard by Marriott, Subway, Krispy Kreme, and even Bame Ace Hardware and the Ft. Fisher Aquarium included, there's plenty of places right here on the Island to save some money. Please consider buying them to give as Christmas presents as well as buying one for yourself. I used my last one to find new places to eat out as most of the restaurants have included their menus.



Officers

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

Directors

Pat Bolander	James Dugan	Ray Flowers
Elaine Henson	John Gordon	Cheri McNeill
Ron Griffin	Jay Hockenbury	Sylvia Snook

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