



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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

Phone: 910-458-0502 e-mail: fp_hps@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Volume 15 No. 6

June, 2008

Darlene Bright, editor

Annual June Picnic Monday June 16, 2008

In lieu of our regular monthly meeting, the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its annual covered dish supper on Monday, June 16 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. Bring a friend and your favorite covered dish.

It is important that everyone be present as we will be voting on officers and board members for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Last Month

Danielle Wallace of the USS North Carolina Battleship Memorial gave an excellent presentation on the Battleship and the "Floating City." She revealed some of the secrets held by the Battleship as new compartments are explored and opened to the public.

Danielle is not new to the area. She previously worked at the Fort Fisher Museum and the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher, and we feel that she is proving to be a great asset in her work at the North Carolina Battleship Memorial. Danielle, keep up the good work!

North Carolina's Role in World War II

By Sarah McCulloh Lemmon

State Department of Archives and History, 1964

Even before Pearl Harbor brought the United States into the war as an avowed belligerent, North Carolina had felt the impact of preparations for military expansion.

The fall of France caused America to decide that its army needed strengthening. In 1939 there were nine infantry divisions which were not at full capacity. The Army Air Force had only 2,400 planes and 22,000 men. Because Congress was alarmed, it passed the first peace-time military draft bill in the nation's history. As a result, by the middle of 1941 there were 29 infantry and cavalry divisions at nearly full strength; but this was still less than a half million men. The peace-time draft was renewed in the fall of 1941, and of course after Pearl Harbor, volunteers as well as draftees poured into the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marines, and the Coast Guard.

In January, 1940, training of a State staff to administer the draft was begun in North Carolina, even though no law had yet been enacted. When the bill was passed the North Carolina delegates in Congress voted for it unanimously. By provisions of the law, all males between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-six were required to register. Exemptions were granted for certain types of jobs, for the clergy, for students, and for conscientious objectors. No bounties for enlisting were allowed to vote by absentee ballot and their rights to re-employment in their former jobs were guaranteed. Under this basic law, with many later amendments, one of the greatest armies of all time was mobilized.

The necessity of training so many new men put a strain on the existing army, navy and marine posts, showing clearly that additional ones would have to be constructed. Also, the use of paratroopers and gliders

creating a need for large areas of ground where landings on enemy territory could be rehearsed, caused the United States government to look for new sites and additions to old ones. The climate of the South, the cheaper cost of land there, and the lower density of population led to the acquisition of land for new training camps throughout the South and the Southwest. North Carolina received a large share of these new military installations. Established in 1918, Fort Bragg was already a regular army post; two large marine bases were created, Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune. Fourteen other bases of varying sizes were established within the State. Because of these numerous bases more fighting men were trained in North Carolina than in any other State.

Military Installations in North Carolina During World War II

Name	Function	Origin of Name
-Army Air Force Placement Center (Greensboro)	Self-explanatory	Self-explanatory
-Camp Battle, New Bern	Infantry	Maj. Gen. Cullen A. Battle Confederate States of America
-Bluethenthal Field Wilmington	Army Air Force	Arthur Bluethenthal, first Wilmington man to die in World War I
-Fort Bragg	Artillery	Gen. Braxton Bragg, Con- federate States of America
-Camp Butner	Infantry	Maj. Gen. Henry Wolfe Butner World War I
-Charlotte Quarter-master Dept	Self-explanatory	Geographical location
-Cherry Point	Marine Air Base	Geographical location
-Coast Guard Station (Elizabeth City)	Self-explanatory	Self-explanatory
-Camp Davis	Infantry	Maj. Gen. Richmond P. Davis World War I
-Seymour Johnson Field	Army Air Base	Lt. Seymour A. Johnson of Goldsboro, Navy pilot killed In March, 1941
-Knollwood Field	Army Air Base	Geographical location
-Laurinburg-Maxton Air Base	Self-explanatory	Geographical location
-Camp Lejeune	Marine Base	Lt. Gen. John Archer Lejeune World War I
-Army Air Force Redistribution Rest Camp, Lake Lure	Self-explanatory	Self-explanatory
-Camp Mackall	Paratrooper training	Pvt. John Thomas Mackall first paratrooper killed in North Africa
-Morris Field	Army Air Base	Maj. Gen. William G. Morris pilot in World War I
-Naval Air Station (Elizabeth City)	Self-explanatory	Self-explanatory
-Naval Convalescent Hospital (Asheville)	Self-explanatory	Self-explanatory
-Pope Field	Army Air Base	Harley H. Pope, killed in 1919 in air crash at Fayetteville
-Raleigh-Durham Army Air Field	Self-explanatory	Geographical location
-Camp Sutton	Army Engineers	Frank Howie Sutton, enlisted in Royal Canadian Air Force and killed in North Africa, Dec. 7, 1941

Historical Essay Contest

The Society sponsors an essay contest each year, open to 4th grade classes at the Carolina Beach Elementary School with our hope of promoting awareness and interest in the local history of the Federal Point area. To celebrate the opening of a Time Capsule, which commemorates the year 1982/83 at the Carolina Beach School, students were asked to write about what the Time Capsule means to them.

Alex Clifton, of Mrs. Holmes' 4th Grade class, was selected for his unique perspective (acrostick) on this subject and was presented with a \$50.00 savings bond at our May meeting.

Time Capsule By: Alex Clifton

Titanium Box of Old
Items That Create
Memories From The Heart If You Look And
Excavate You Will Find The Great Stuff Of The Past.

Ceremony After Ceremony The Past Becomes The Future
Antiques Become Precious And Give You Memories of Gold
Pictures Of The Past Remind You Of Your Childhood.
Sealed In A Box For 25 Years Tell The Story Of Your Life
Underground In The Cold Your Memories Are Alive.
Lying There Waiting To Be Opened To Show Your Glory.
Everlasting Memories Are Treasure In A Special Way.

New Additions to the History Center Center Library and Archives

Added in May:

- *One Good Man* by Rev. J. D. Hufham, Edited by Jack E. Fryar, Jr. John Lamb Prichard's life of faith, service, and sacrifice.
- *The Story of Brunswick Town and Fort Anderson* by Franda D. Pedlow with additional material by Jack E. Fryar, Jr.
- *The Yellow Fever* by Jack E. Fryar, Jr. Young Readers Series Wilmington & The Epidemic of 1862.
- *Under Three Flags – The Fort Johnston Story* by Jack E. Fryar, Jr. Young Readers Series.
- *The Big Book of the Cape Fear River* by Claude V. Jackson, III, edited by Jack E. Fryar, Jr. A Maritime History of the Cape Fear and Northeast Cape Fear Rivers.

THANKS to Ruby Beavers for her donation of a commemorative plate depicting the Community Church, ca 1950.

Also, **THANKS** to the Cape Fear Coin Club for their generous donation of \$50.00.

Society Notes

- **History Center News:** Darlene Bright, Director. Did you notice?! The handicap ramp and side of the building have been pressure washed, **A BIG THANK YOU** to **Skip Henson**. Our volunteers at the History Center in May included Elaine Henson, Pat Bolander, Ron Griffin, Juanita Winner, and Jeannie Gordon. As always, thanks to Lois Taylor, who willingly helps with the Newsletter. In addition to approximately 34 members and guests at our May meeting, we had 54 visitors at the History Center in the month of May.

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

Zorba's Steak & Seafood

Don't forget THE HISTORY CENTER IS NOW OPEN on Tuesdays 12-4 as well as Fridays and Saturdays from 10-4.

● **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.

● **Get to Know the Fort Fisher Hermit!** The Fort Fisher Aquarium will be presenting the award winning documentary, entitled "The Fort Fisher Hermit: The Life & Death of Robert E. Harrill," then walking in the Hermit's footsteps out through the marsh to the bunker where he lived. Learn how the Hermit lived in the marsh surviving largely on plants and animals. Open to individuals age 15 and up. Fee: \$18.00 with Aquarium admission, \$10.00 without Aquarium admission. Pre-registration is required and can be made by calling (910) 458-7468. Program Dates: Saturday, June 14th; Wednesday, July 2nd; Wednesday, July 16th; Wednesday, July 30th; Wednesday, August 20th; Saturday, August 23rd; ;and, Wednesday, August 27th.

Current Membership

219 personal members

23 business members

Officers

President – Vacant

Vice-President – Cheri McNeill

Secretary – Lois Taylor

Treasurer - Jeannie Gordon

Pat Bolander

Elaine Henson

Ron Griffin

Directors

James Dugan

John Gordon

Jay Hockenbury

Ray Flowers

Richard Graham

Sylvia Snook

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