



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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Newsletter

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Darlene Bright, editor

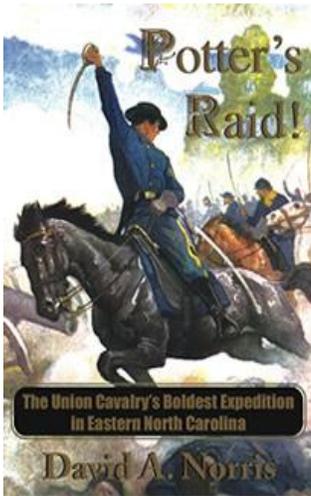
November Meeting

Monday November 17, 2008

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 17th at 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A NorthLake Park Blvd., adjacent to the Carolina Beach Town Hall. Members and the general public are cordially invited. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Our speaker will be the Society's old friend **Jack E. Fryar, Jr.** and author of a new book on Potter's Raid, **David Norris**. Jack, who is a life-long resident of southeastern North Carolina, has been a professional writer and publisher since 1994. Jack has also worked in the front office of the Durham Dragons of the Women's Pro Fastpitch League, served as a game announcer for UNC Tar Heel and UNCW softball, and works part time as a radio announcer.

In 2000, he founded Dram Tree books, a small publishing house whose titles tell the story of coastal North Carolina's vivid and exciting history. The author of the *Coastal Chronicles* series as well as the *History Lovers Guide to Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear*, he is also author of the popular *Young Reader's* series, which presents local history from NC's coastal pirates to Ft. Fisher and the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1862.



Freelance writer and artist David A. Norris was born in Charlotte. He has a BFA degree in art from East Carolina University and lived in Greenville for a number of years after graduation. David has written over two hundred magazine and encyclopedia articles. His work has appeared in *Our State*, *American Heritage*, *CNN.com*, *America's Civil War*, *History Magazine*, *Civil War Times*, *American History*, the *North Carolina Historical Review*, *Family Chronicle*, *Internet Genealogy*, *South Carolina Magazine*, *True West*, *Mental Floss*, and *Learning Through History*. In addition, he has contributed articles to the encyclopedia of the American Civil War, the Encyclopedia of New Jersey, the Encyclopedia of Appalachia, the Encyclopedia of North Carolina History, and the upcoming Mississippi Encyclopedia. David is currently president of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table in Wilmington. He now lives in Wilmington with his wife Carol.

Jack will tell us all about his newest Dram Tree Titles including *Redcoats on the River* by Robert Dunkerly and Raleigh author Susan Adair's *Camp Follower*, a mystery novel set during the American Revolution. David will speak about his new book, *Potter's Raid!* an account of the Union Cavalry's 1864 Expedition into Eastern North Carolina.

Newton Cemetery Cleanup

Saturday, November 15, 2008

9 am until...

Our annual cleanup of the Newton Cemetery and Homesite takes place on Saturday, November 15th this year. Please plan to join us to rake and tidy up this special historic property. Members will meet at the Methodist Cemetery on Dow Rd. at 9 am and walk back to the grounds together. (Remember this is MOTSU property and we have to get permission to be on the grounds.) Please bring rakes and pruning sheers. Is there anyone out there with a leaf/grass blower? Please, please give us an hour of your time!

Society Membership: 219 personal members 22 business members

Also Upcoming! FPHPS Gift Shop Winterfair
Saturday, December 6, 2008; 11:00 am -3:00 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 will be Elaine Henson, Anne Hutterman, Daniel Norris, Beverly Tetterton 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 local 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.

Annual Barbeque Fundraiser
"Captive Audience" makes it A HUGE SUCCESS!

This past Saturday (November 1) the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society held its annual Barbeque fundraiser. Though it never dawned on us that the early voting lines would snake around Town Hall ALL DAY, it surely made our event a spectacular success! We absolutely sold out of barbeque and provided drinks, sustenance, and bathrooms to the hordes waiting to do their civic duty.

It really was great "Down East" style barbeque, just spicy enough to give it that unique savory smoked flavor. Bowman's-at-the-Beach donated all the slaw and hush puppies we needed. (THANK YOU BOWMAN'S!) while members Cheri McNeill, Annette Winner, Paul Slebodnik, Billy Debnan and Jackie Wiebe donated desserts to be sold along with the dinner plates. The day of the event we had a great turnout of volunteers and want to especially commend Cherie McNeill, Annette Winner, Kay Stains, Paul Slebodnik, Robert Bright, Gerald Bright and Pat Bolander for pitching in and keeping us going under during the onslaught.

A special commendation goes out to Darlene and Leslie Bright without whom this annual event couldn't be the success it is every year! It's Leslie's special "way with the pig" that keeps people coming back each year and Darlene's "executive skills" that mean we have everything we need AND we make a profit. They both put a huge amount of time into the planning and execution of the event, and as always; led, cajoled, and pushed us through another successful fundraiser.

Thanks as well, to the *Island Gazette* staff who make sure word about all of our programs and events are included in the paper in a prominent and timely manner. Their support is invaluable to us and all the non-profit organizations on the Island, and we don't say thank-you often enough.

October Meeting
The visit of some Bathing Beauties

We had a great turn out for our own Elaine Henson who showed us great pictures from her book on *Bathing Beauties on Vintage Postcards*. Her stories of searching e-bay for new postcards were fascinating. Would you believe she looks every day looking for cards to add to her collection? We all enjoyed seeing the hilarious beach costumes worn in the early days of the 20th Century and found the story of the lifelines that were installed in the water fascinating, Did you know that most people didn't know how to swim in those days? Some of us could listen to Elaine's stories all evening and never get our fill. What project will she be up to next?

President's Message
November, 2008

Greetings from one of the hosts and caretakers at Balsam Lake Lodge in the glorious mountains of western North Carolina! As you would expect, the colors are just incredible. Not to mention the snowfall (six to eight inches in the high elevation) on Oct. 28. And it has been a pleasure to help the National Forest Service keep this beautiful spot open and available so handicapped citizens can enjoy the trails and do some fishing.

I did want to encourage everyone to renew their memberships. We all know that finances are tight everywhere, but I know that members genuinely support the mission of the society and will come through as always.

See you soon!
Don

Why

We're All Called Tar Heels

Reprinted by permission of the author William S. Powell

Part 1 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 we wanted to share it with all the membership.]

We all have had to deal with the problem at one point or another, particularly when we go abroad (more than two states away) and declare our state of residence. "Oh, that's such a beautiful state," folks respond, before pausing. "But why are you called Tar Heels?"

The *why* comes easily, but *when* it all started takes explaining. In fact, history shows that North Carolina residents have taken an albatross from around their necks and pinned it on their chests like a badge of honor. The moniker is rooted in the state's earliest history, derived from the production of naval stores – tar, pitch and turpentine – extracted from the vast pine forests of the state. Early explorers from Jamestown pointed out the possibilities for naval stores production along the Chowan River. Eventually Parliament offered a bounty for their production, and North Carolina became an important source of tar and pitch for the English navy. For several years before the American Revolution, the colony shipped more than 100,000 barrels of tar and pitch annually to England.

The distillation process for tar and pitch was messy and smelly. Rich pine logs were stacked, covered with earth and burned. The tar ran out through channels dug on the lower side of the pile. Because of this product, so extensively produced in North Carolina, the people of the state were called "Tarboilers," according to the first volume of the Cincinnati Miscellany and Ohio journal published in 1845. Forty-three years later, the poet Walt Whitman also recorded that the people of North Carolina were called "Tar Boilers." In both cases the name clearly was applied in derision. In May 1856, *Harper's Magazine* mentioned someone who "lost his way among the pine woods that abounded in **that tar and turpentine** state," while an 1876 book on the Centennial Exposition described someone who "spent his youth in the good old 'Tar and Turpentine State.'"

A story that at best must be considered folklore states that when Lord Cornwallis's troops forded the Tar River in early May 1781 en route to Yorktown, they emerged with tar on their feet. This marked their passage through North Carolina as tar heels. The tar reputedly had been hastily dumped into the river to prevent the British from capturing it. This story cannot be traced beyond the 20th century and may have been made up to suggest the naming of the river.

But when, beyond doubt, did the term Tar Heel begin to be applied to North Carolinians? Clearly during the Civil War. In the third volume of Walter Clark's *Histories of the Several Regiments from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-1865*, published in 1901, James M. Ray of Asheville records two incidents in 1863 that suggest the nickname's original application. In a fierce battle in Virginia, where their supporting column was driven from the field, North Carolina troops stood alone and fought successfully. The victorious troops were asked in a condescending tone by some Virginians who had retreated, "Any more tar down in the Old North State, boys?" The response came quickly: "No; not a bit; old Jeff's bought it all up." "Is that so? What is he going to do with it?" the Virginians asked. "He is going to put it on your heels to make you stick better in the next fight."

After the Battle of Murfreesboro in Tennessee in early January 1863, John S. Preston of Columbia, S.C., the commanding general, rode along the fighting line commending his troops. Before the 60th Regiment from North Carolina, Preston praised them for advancing farther than he had anticipated, concluding with: "This is your first battle of any consequence, I believe. Indeed, your Tar Heels have done well."

Similarly, sometime after North Carolina troops had fought particularly well, Gen. Robert E. Lee is said to have commented: "God bless the Tar Heel boys." Like the Cornwallis story, however, the exact occasion has not been noted.

Society Notes

- A HUGE THANKS to the folks in the **Got-'em-on-live Fishing Club**.

Their generous \$750.00 donation is being used, in part, for the construction of the two new display cases. The rest will be applied to the ongoing expenses of the History Center. Their display should be finished soon, so look for it on the back wall at the next meeting,

- **Membership Information:** Debbie Price, Chairperson. We would like to welcome new member **Jackie Greene Kraus of Wilmington** 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 the

**The Federal Point
History Center is now open:**
Tuesday: 12-4
Friday: 10-4
Saturday: 10-4

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

Dr. Vincent Smith, DDS

Snow's Cut Monthly Magazine

Taylor's Heating & Air, Inc.

Tucker Bros. Realty Company

beach. Again this year we'll offer a special "gift" certificate for you to present (or we can mail it directly).

● **History Center News:** Darlene Bright, Director. Our volunteers who helped keep the History Center open in November are Pat Bolander, Elaine Henson and Lois Taylor. Lois also helped again this month with the newsletter mailing. In addition to approximately 40 members and guests at our October meeting, we had 110 visitors at the History Center in the month of October. Both Got-'em-on-live and the UDC held their monthly meetings at the History Center

● *The SWEATS are Here!* **We now have brand new FPHPS sweat shirts available in the gift shop for \$20.00 each.** They come in denim blue and cardinal red, and we have both colors in sizes large, extra-large and 2XX. We have begun adding items for the Gift Shop in preparation for our busy holiday season. We now have mugs and lanyards with our lighthouse logo on them, as well a number of puzzles and games for kids, featuring pirates, the Civil War, and lighthouses. We also have a number of new books for sale including David Stick's classic *Graveyard of the Atlantic*, the definitive work on NC shipwrecks, and Bruce and Cheryl Roberts's *North Carolina Lighthouses: A Tribute of History and Hope*, the single most glorious photo-essay on lighthouses I've ever seen. For families and beach buddies of all ages, there is *How to Read a North Carolina Beach: Bubble Holes, Barking Sands, and Rippled Runnels*. I've even managed to find some copies of Chris Fonvielle's *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* so stop by and take a look.

● 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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