



# Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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## Newsletter

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Darlene Bright, editor  
Rebecca Taylor, production

### August Meeting

**Monday August 17, 2009**

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, August 17, at 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center**, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

This month author **Ann Cottle** will discuss the history of the experimental rural homestead community Penderlea. Founded in Pender County at the beginning of the Great Depression this fascinating community has regained interest and importance with the current economic situation. Ann's book *The Roots of Penderlea* combines documentary history and firsthand accounts of North Carolina's path-breaking Penderlea Homestead Farms. What started as a vision became a reality in 1934 when under FDR's New Deal, Penderlea became one of the nation's first experimental agricultural colonies.



### Last Month's Meeting

We had a full house for Bob Cooke's talk on his new book, *Wild Wicked Wartime Wilmington*. The largest city in North Carolina, Wilmington was a vital port for blockade runners bringing military supplies as well as civilian necessities and luxuries to the beleaguered South. With CSA soldiers encamped around the city, as well as moving through the town on the railroads the nightlife at Paddy's Hollow was notorious. Though there was no shortage of men willing to join the city's police force and fire department, as those positions carried an automatic exemption from military service, both forces had plenty of work to do. With stories drawn from period newspapers, memoirs and journals, and military records *Wild Wicked Wartime Wilmington* is a fascinating and informative look at a boomtown city and how its inhabitants coped.

### President's Message

**July, 2009**

I was very gratified with the turnout at last month's meeting. I know it had more to do with the interest in Bob Cooke's presentation than in my first meeting as your new President, but it gave me a good feeling nevertheless. I am sure that Mr. Cooke was also very pleased with the near-capacity crowd.

I am looking forward to the presentation at our August meeting and hope you are also. Come on out and bring friends to hear Ann Cottle's discussion on Penderlea.

Ron Griffin

A Message for the membership from Jeannie Gordon, Treasurer

To the Membership,

On July 6, your Board of Directors approved the Budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year; and for the second year in a row, the Society will be operating at a deficit. Times are tough for everyone, and your Society will be operating bare bones, with little or no monies for new projects and endeavors. Rebecca is searching for grants that, if received, would help us to develop a web page and increase our outreach to the community.

YOU are the society, however, and the Board and I are asking each of us to do some little things that will help the Society save money:

- If you have and use the Internet, please consider receiving your newsletter via email. It costs over \$9.00 yearly to send out each newsletter. Just send an email to [fphps@yahoo.com](mailto:fphps@yahoo.com) requesting the online version.
- Please pay your dues promptly and help us avoid unnecessary printing and postage for reminders.
- Enlist new members! Especially businesses! Membership packets are at the Center, or call 458-0502 to leave a message. Individual memberships = \$15; Family = \$20; Business = \$35.
- Thank the members of the Councils for both Carolina Beach and Kure Beach. Without their ongoing financial support, the Center could not stay open!
- Support your Gift Shop. We have some wonderful items for all ages, including Grandkids.
- Support our fundraisers! We have a BBQ in the Fall, sell the Attractions' coupon book just in time for the holidays, and sell sausage dogs at the Ft. Fisher Re-enactment in January. And if you have an idea for a new fundraiser, we'd love to hear from you.
- From time to time, we may need an item or a service for the Center. The Board has suggested that we go to you, the membership, for donations before automatically buying new.
- Your Society is always happy to receive donations, large or small, money or service. And we are tax deductible!

Jeannie Gordon,  
Treasurer

### Oral History Committee

#### Teens On the Beach – 1940's and 1950's

From Oral History Interviews conducted by Ann Hertzler and Jeannie Gordon

Compiled by Ann Hertzler from interviews with Andy Canoutas, Glenn Flowers, Margaret Ford, Isabelle Foushee, Jeannie Kure., Jack Lewis, Ed Niedens, Mike Robinson, Ray Rothrock and Dub Hegler

**Swimming:** Some mothers went to the beach with their children. One family had a little dog that walked in front of their young son to keep him from going in the ocean. Some children could go to the beach in the day time where they could be seen, but not after dark. Older kids would sit on the pier or on beach blankets. No one had chairs. They'd play in the water, walk on the beach, look for shells, talk, and be teenagers. It was an innocent time. Lawrence Kure told 14 year old Isabelle Lewis, Punkie Kure, Roberts Hall, and Sun Waters not to jump off the end of the pier (1943-44). They nonchalantly walked out, and then ran to the end of the pier, jumped in the water, and swam back.



**Surfing:** In the 1940s, the ocean had big waves. You used an inner tube or jumped on a wave and body surfed. Surf boards or boogie boards hadn't been invented yet. Body surfing was swimming with the crested wave, going down like a surf board, and skidding in. A perfect surf board for riding the waves was mother's ironing board - a flat board about 5 ft long - 2 ft wide that lay between 2 chairs or on the kitchen table. "When the wave breaks, you've got to keep the nose of the ironing board up. If the nose goes down, the point digs into the sand and you "could flat get a belly ache." Some Moms didn't know her son used her ironing board until he forgot to bring it home. Some surfers got a wide board and cut it bow shaped. Later Andy Canoutas obtained a 15' surf board made by a friend, hollow on the inside so water had to be drained after each use. Mike Robertson brought in surf boards to rent at Kure Beach Pier.



**Life Guards:** Andy Canoutas was the first paid life guard by local businesses at Kure Beach when he was 15 (1950). Andy guarded up to 1963 from the first jetty south of the pier to the next jetty with a stand for him to sit on. He wore short, tight suits like boxer shorts. Tourists from nearby cottages crowded the beach with the life guard. Parents would look after the little ones; but 8 to 11 year old boys were the wild ones. In times of danger, Andy had a whistle to get their attention. He used a buoy to rescue a lot of people because of rip currents. Bobby Ford and Eddie Neidens were life guards. No radio or phone was available to call for help; but the lifeguard had a key to the Town Hall to get to the oxygen system. Individuals also saved lives of friends and neighbors stepping in a hole in the beach with tremendous sand bars at low tide and quickly going from waist deep to neck deep, or caught in the rip current.

### Society Notes

□ **Membership Information:** Annette Winner, Chairperson. A big welcome to new member Paul Thompson of Wilmington. Annette and Rebecca are talking about a business member drive for later this summer and early fall. WE NEED a few more members to help. Please let Annette or Rebecca if you'd be willing to help.

*WANTED: Information on Vonage Internet phone service. If you use Vonage, or can provide first-hand information, please contact Rebecca, 458-0502. The Society could cut our phone bill in half by using Vonage, but we want member input before making the switch.*

□ **History Center News:** Darlene Bright, Director. Volunteers who helped keep the History Center open in July were Lois Taylor, Juanita Winner, Sylvia Snook, Demetria Sabienza, Ron Griffin, Pat Bolander, Elaine Henson, and Jennie Gordon. A huge thanks from Rebecca to everyone who pitched in to cover her Alaska vacation. In addition to 55 members and guests at our July meeting we had 42 visitors at the History Center. Gift Shop Sales totaled \$352.43. There are glimmers of hope that the economy is beginning to pick up. In late July we had an increase in out-of-towners visiting the History Center AND an uptake in gift shop sales. Got'em-on-Live also held their montly meeting at the center.

### From the Bill Reaves - Federal Point Files

**May 2, 1914**

THE VANISHED HOUSE – A two-room frame dwelling recently erected by Messrs. G. H. and M. A. Currie, of Clarkton, in Federal Point Township, to replace one that was burned by an incendiary three months earlier, was torn down and removed to some point not yet revealed to the owners and the tenant, Taylor Clifton, an aged white man, was missing and there was a suspicion that he had met with foul play. Mr. Clifton had lived in the house for two weeks earlier, having moved there from Clarkton, and he had relatives living in Wilmington. The house was completely dismantled with every vestige of lumber removed, and with it all the furniture and effects in the dwelling. The site of the house was between the river and the ocean about 1 ½ miles south of the Carolina Beach pier. It had been completed only two weeks before its disappearance on the site of the burned dwelling. WILMINGTON DISPATCH, 5-11-1914.

### May 12, 1914

THE VANISHED HOUSE – The vanished house on the Cape Fear River, near Carolina Beach pier, was found. Deputy Sheriff W. H. Kermion reported that he found the lumber of the dwelling that disappeared in the yard of Mr. T. H. Nelson. Five men, Messrs. A. W. Pate, W. M. Pate, and T. H. Nelson, white, and Frank Murphy and Henry Farrow, colored, were arrested under a warrant charging that they had removed the house. Warrants were out for two other colored persons.

The old man who mysteriously disappeared about the time the house was torn to the ground was reported as having left Wilmington on a north-bound train. Why he left the house immediately preceding its demolition was still a question.

One of the owners admitted that there had been a controversy about the land upon which the dwelling was located between G. H. and M. A. Currie, of Clarkton and the Hanover Transit Company, of which Mr. A. W. Pate was president. WILMINGTON DISPATCH, 5-12-1914.

### May 13, 1914

THE VANISHED HOUSE – Complaint in the case of Alexander W. Pate and Joseph J. Loughlin against Geroge H. Currie and his wife, Nell A. Currie. W. H. Kermion and H. Mack Godwin, was instituted in Superior Court. It was an action for \$10,000 alleged damages to land in federal Point Township which the plaintiffs claim have been in their absolute possession for over 30 years.

The land in controversy, Mr. Currie claimed was inherited by him. It was now a part of a large tract which Messrs. Pate & Loughlin, under the name of New Hanover Transit Compnany, were developing in Federal Point Township.

The bringing of the suit by Messrs. Pate & Loughlin follows closely the indictment of Mr. Pate and six others on a charge of demolishing and removing a small two-room frame dwelling which was located on the land in dispute and occupied the site of another small building which had been burned about three months earlier. The building had been erected by the defendant Currie.

The plaintiffs allege that the defendant in the action did, with force and arms, on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1913, enter upon a portion of this tract at the southwestern part and trespassed upon land which had been in the possession on the plaintiffs for a long time and was at that time posted. It is further averred that a shack was built without the knowledge of the plaintiffs and that the defendants did wrongfully place some person in charge of the building for the purpose of wrongfully taking possession of the land in question. A few days later the shack was burned and the plaintiffs aver that they are informed and believe that the fire occurred through the negligence of the agent of the defendant. The defendants repeatedly trespassed and entered upon the land after having been warned not to do so.



The complaint further sets out that the defendants had greatly damaged the property and had cut down trees. On or about April 29<sup>th</sup>, the defendants with a large force of men did build a barbed-wire fence along a portion of the lands in spite of a protest entered by Thomas E. Nelson, an agent of the plaintiffs.

A small house was built on the lands and this act had brought a cloud on the title to the land which had caused the plaintiffs great damage. The plaintiffs contended that the defendants had wrongfully, maliciously and willfully, with force and arms, attempted to wrest the possession of a portion of the said lands from the plaintiffs.

It was also set forth in the complaint that G. H. Currie and two servants or employees, W. H. Kermion and H. Mack Godwin, both of whom were armed with pistols and one with a black-jack, trespassed upon the land and that the latter two did, over protest of the agent of the plaintiffs, spend the night of May 10<sup>th</sup> upon the lands. The plaintiffs alleged that H. Mack Godwin did use threatening language to some of the plaintiffs or their agents. WILMINGTON DISPATCH, 5-15-1914.

### June 2, 1914

THE VANISHED HOUSE - Two hundred dollars was Taylor Clifton's price for decamping, according to evidence before the Recorder Judge in the case of J. J. Loughlin, Esq., and T. H. Nelson who were being tried for destroying a house near Carolina Beach. Clifton was now appearing against Nelson and Loughlin and his story served to clear some foggy points in the case.

He said that he was taken to the house by Mr. Currie, and instructed to stay there. On the following day, Mr. Loughlin came to him and asked him who he was and what he was doing there. Clifton said he told him that he was there for Mr. Currie and had instructions to keep trespassers off the property. Mr. Loughlin then told him that the property did not belong to Mr. Currie, and that he had best get off. Clifton then said that he did not see Mr. Loughlin again until several days later at Carolina Beach, when he informed Loughlin that he would not get off the land until he had heard from Mr. Currie. Nothing then occurred for several days. Clifton said he could not sleep at night, because of unusual noises around the house – men talking in low tones of voice, etc. He said he was frightened. Ten days after he had arrived at the house he was approached by a man named Bryan, whom he said was employed by the Hanover Transit Company, of which Mr. Loughlin was an officer. Bryan asked him how much he wanted to get out. Clifton said that he replied that he would not leave for less than \$200.

Bryan then replied that he would see what he could do, and left. He returned the next night and said that Clifton had a chance to get the \$200 if he wanted it, whereupon the old man told him to bring it along.

Bryan arrived about daylight next morning, brought the \$200, delivered it to Clifton, and received from Clifton \$25 for his services. Clifton then left in an automobile that had been provided, came to Wilmington and then went to Virginia, where he spent a week and then returned to North Carolina, where he was arrested. The case was continued. WILMINGTON DISPATCH, 6-2-1914.

**Kure Beach Community Center  
Annual Barbecue  
Saturday August 15, 2009**

**4:00pm – 8 :00 pm**



***At the Kure Beach Community Center  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, behind Big Daddy's)***

***Menu: Barbecued Pulled Pork from  
Bowman's  
Buttered Parsley Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Beans,  
Sweet/UnSweet Tea and HOMEMADE  
Desserts!***

**Tickets: \$7.00 at the Door; take-outs available.**

**Officers**

President – Ron Griffin  
Vice-President – Annette Winner  
Secretary – Lois Taylor  
Treasurer - Jeannie Gordon

**Directors**

Leslie Bright, Chair	James Dugan	Ray Flowers
Elaine Henson	Daniel Norris	Cheri McNeill
Jack Travis	Pat Bolander	Sylvia Snook

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