



# Federal Point Historic Preservation

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

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

## Newsletter

Volume 16 No. 12

December, 2009

Darlene  
Rebecca

### December Meeting Monday, December 14 ONE WEEK EARLY (due to the Holidays) 6:30 pm (not 7:30)

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its annual holiday potluck on **Monday, December 14 at 6:30 pm**. Due to the large turnout at our last two socials, we will be gathering **at the Kure Memorial Lutheran Church** this year. The church, located at 117 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. in Kure Beach, has graciously allowed us to meet in their Fellowship Hall, so that we have plenty of room for everyone!

So join us for a evening of friends and fellowship. Bring your favorite covered dish and invite your friends (prospective members.) John Golden be will playing traditional carols and songs for the group to sing along.

### Last Month's Meeting

Over 50 people enjoyed a segment of the *The Kure Family Legacy DVD*. The segment covered the very early years of Hans and Ellen Kure's lives and how they came to America and to the North Carolina Coast. They must have been truly amazing people. Ellen Kure went from being a lady-in-waiting to the Royal Court in Denmark to raising a family and helping her husband build up his business in the primitive conditions of Kure Beach and the more civilized conditions of Wilmington (Most years they spent summers at the beach and winters in Wilmington) before the turn to the twentieth century.

I just love this note in the Bill Reaves files:

*"July 4, 1895 FEDERAL POINT. A large number of people visited Carolina Beach and spent a quiet, pleasant day. There was music for dancing all day, which was taken advantage of by a large number. Several fishing parties went out in the afternoon. The surf bathers were on hand in large numbers. Mrs. Mayo and Mrs. Kure had all they could do serving guests with sea delicacies. The last boat to Wilmington returned at 9:30 p.m. and the ride on the river was delightful. WILM.STAR, 7-6-1895."*

**A huge thanks to "Punky" Kure, Pat Rice, and "Curly" Shands for answering questions and adding comentary at the end of the film.**

### President's Message

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the potluck dinner on the 14th. The Kure Memorial Lutheran Church is allowing us to have our function at their Fellowship Hall. They have waived their usual fee for such use of their facility but will gratefully accept free-will donations to



### Directions to Kure Mem

1. Take Dow Road and follow it to the end at Kure Beach where it will end and turn left onto L Avenue. Be alert for deer along Dow Road. At the intersection along K Avenue turn right onto L Avenue North. The parking area for the Fellowship Hall is 1/2 block north of the intersection area without any marking for parking there. If you miss the intersection, you will not be able to turn right onto L Avenue to the traffic light and turn left onto L Avenue. Then make a right turn onto L Avenue or Fourth for parking.

2. Taking Highway 421 (Lafayette Road) from Kure Beach and Fort Fisher Blvd. Follow Highway 421 through Kure Beach to the traffic light at L Avenue. The first street West is Third Avenue. Right turns on either side of the intersection areas.

### Parking S

The Church faces Third Avenue and has some marked on-street parking. There is a Municipal Parking Lot on the east side of Third Avenue adjacent to the Kure Memorial Lutheran Church Center. The Fellowship Hall is on the west side of the Church property. There is no parking there, but there is a parking area on the grounds where cars can be parked. There are no parking spaces to be marked there. There is public parking on K Avenue north of the

Church.



### **Federal Point Lighthouse Foundation Uncovered!**

On Thursday, November 19, a crew from the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology and the state's largest State Historic Site uncovered what is believed to be the foundation of the first (and second) Federal Lighthouse. Measurement of the walls and dimensions of the brick floor match known building plans for the original lighthouse exactly. Located east of the Confederate Monument and located directly in front of the location of the lighthouse uncovered by Stanley South in the 1960's, a number of small artifacts, including pieces of glass bottles and any number of Civil War period minnie balls and pieces of cannonballs, were found. Sadly for lighthouse history, the foundation was covered over at the end of the second day to preserve the foundation from salt-water, rain, and drastic temperature changes. Jim Steele, Director of the Fort Fisher Historic Site, does hope to find a way to "interpret" the lighthouse and the keeper's quarters in the future.

### **Historic Feature: Christmas during the Civil War**

From the excellent web site: [http://dburgin.tripod.com/cw\\_xmas/cwarxmas2.html](http://dburgin.tripod.com/cw_xmas/cwarxmas2.html)

As the war dragged on, deprivation replaced bounteous repasts and familiar faces were missing from the ranks. Soldiers used to "bringing in the tree" and caroling in church were instead scavenging for firewood and singing songs around the campfire. And so the holiday celebration most associated with family and home was a joyful, sad, religious, boisterous, and subdued event.

**Gilbert J. Barton, Company I of Charlotte, recorded some of the hardships of camp that day:**

*"Dec 25th Christmas. Had hard Tack soaked in cold water and then fried in pork Greece [sic]. Fried in a cantin, putting into the fire & melting the sodder[sic] off. We pick them up on the field left by other soldiers, also had up at 5 this morning with guns ready, as it is reported that there are 400 Rebel Cavalry not far off prowling and*

**Robert Gould Shaw, then a 2nd lieutenant in the 2d Massachusetts Infantry, writes in 1861, about guarding the coast of MD. He would later earn fame as the commander of the heroic African American unit, the 54th Massachusetts. "It is Christmas morning and I hope a happy and merry one for you all, though it looks so stormy for our poor boys. We will be in merry humor."**

**From the diary of Private Robert A. Moore, a Confederate soldier:**

*Tuesday, Dec 24th, 1861, camp near Swan's...*

*"This is Christmas Eve but seems but little like it to me"*

*Wednesday, Dec. 25th, 1861, camp near Swan's...*

*"This is Christmas & and very dull Christmas it has been to me. Had an egg-nog to-night but did not enjoy it much as we had no ladies to share it with us."*

**One of the dreariest accounts of Christmas during the Civil War came from Lt. Col. Frederic Cavada, captured at Gettysburg and writing about Christmas 1863 in Libby Prison in Richmond:**

*"The north wind comes reeling in fitful gushes through the iron bars, and jingles a sleighbell in the prisoner's ear, and puffs in his pale face with a breath suggestively odorous of eggnog...."*

*"...Christmas Day! A day which was made for smiles, not sighs - for laughter, not tears - for the hearth, not prison."*

**From the diary of Robert Watson of Key West, Florida.**

*December 25, 1863 at Dalton, Georgia after action at Chickamauga*

*"Christmas day and a very dull one but I find a tolerable good dinner. I had one drink of*



painful thoughts. The day, one year ago, how many thousand families, gay and joyous, celebrating Merry Christmas to absent members of their family and sending upon the wings of love and affection long, deep, and sincere wishes to the loving ones at home, but today are clad in the deepest mourning in memory to some lost and loved members. "When will this war end? Will another Christmas roll around and find us all wintering in camp? Oh! That peace be restored to our young but dearly beloved country and that we may all meet again in happiness."

**Jasper Cockerham wrote the following letter to his niece his niece:**

*Camp near Dinwiddie Court House*

*December 26, 1864*

*Dear Martha,*

*Your letter came to hand a few days since and I am now seated to answer. I have but little news times is very dull was the most quiet day we have had for some time. The soldiers all look sad and lonely. We have nothing spirit in camp. Have not see one case of intoxication during our Christmas holiday. All is calm on the lines in front of Richmond, except some little picket firing on Saturday night. I have a splendid cain and am living quite comfortable. Rations are rather scanty...*

*Yours affectionatly,*

*Jasper*

**Christmas 1864: Many units were on the march, either trying to evade capture or pursuing the opponen Soldiers left in the squalid conditions of prison camps spent the day remembering holidays at home, as did more comfortable settings. Confederate General Gordon, writing from his headquarters near Petersburg, described the famine as well as General Grant:**

*"The one worn-out railroad running to the far South could not bring us half enough necessary supplies: and even if it could have transported Christmas boxes of good things, the people at home were too depleted to send them."*

**By late 1865 the country was starting to reunite as the horrors of war and the shock of Lincoln's assassination faded into memory. That December brought the first peacetime Christmas in five years. Most soldiers had been mustered out of the military and were home to celebrate the holiday with their families. Of course, many others had never returned home. Harper's published a poem titled "By the Christmas Hearth" that was more in line with the nation's hopeful spirit of reunification. The last stanza especially captures the cheerful holiday mood and eagerness of the American people to put the turbulent conflict behind them:**

*Bring holly, rich with berries red,  
And bring the sacred mistletoe;  
Fill high each glass, and let hearts  
With kindest feelings flow;  
So sweet it seems at home once more  
To sit with those we hold most dear,  
And keep absence once again  
To keep the Merry Christmas here.*



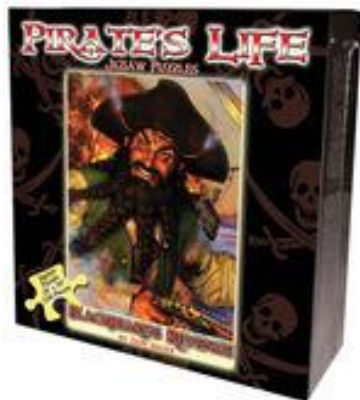
**Gift Shop Extravaganza!  
Federal Point History Center  
1121-A North Lake Park Blvd.  
Open Before Christmas: Tues. 12/15, 12/22 from 12-4  
Friday & Saturday 12/18 & 12/19 from 10-4**

With the holiday season fast approaching everyone is looking for just the right gift. Are you a history buff? Are you looking for a gift for the history buffs on your list? Or kids into pirates? The Federal Point History Center has a variety of books, puzzles, and games on topics that include the Civil War, pirates, lighthouses, and even the Fort Fisher Hermit.

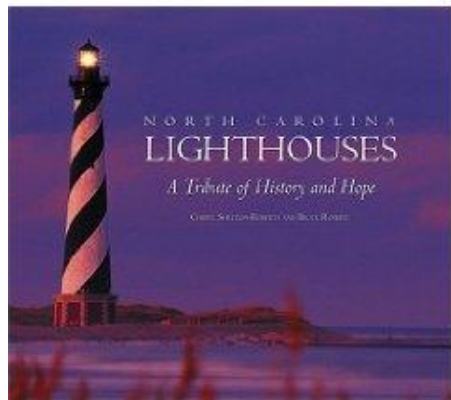


Every beach cottage should have a copy of Elaine Henson's *CAROLINA BEACH, A POSTCARD HISTORY* (\$21.95), or send them to friends and family who no longer live at the beach. From Captain Harper's Shoe-Fly train to the Steel Pier and its chair lift to photos of a very primitive "north end" and the Pennington brothers' flying field EVERYONE will find something new in this fascinating look into the past. We've also got plenty of copies of Daniel Norris's two beautiful coffee

survive. If you Civil War buff is of a younger age, we have an intriguing game (5.00) in which the players tra Appomattox by roiling dice and amassing supplies, horses and reinforcements.



**PIRATES!** For children of all ages we have a variety of items on the pirates that roamed our coast in colonial times. *Pirates of the Southern Coast* (5.95) by Sandra MacLean Clunies and Bruce Roberts includes tales of Blackbeard, Stede Bonnet, and Calico Jack Rackham as well as information on the shipwreck off Beaufort, NC that just may be *The Queen Anne's Revenge*, Blackbeard's flagship. Jack Fryar's *Pirates of the North Carolina Coast* (12.95) covers some of the same material in more depth but also presents more general information on pirates, including an explanation of the difference between a pirate and a privateer as well as a discussion of pirate flags and weapons. Any junior pirate Blackbeard jigsaw puzzle (10.00.) We also have pirate themed coloring postcards (5.00) and posters (5.00) pencils and stickers.



If you have a lighthouse enthusiast in your family we have a variety of items coffee table book *North Carolina Lighthouses* by Cheryl Shelton-Roberts. Bald Head, Oak Island and Price's Creek, are include in the spectacular photographs by photographer Bruce Roberts as well as unique shots of Cape Lookout, Ocracoke Island, and Currituck Beach. Bruce and Cheryl have also collaborated on *Lighthouse Ghosts* (14.95). Drawn from interviews with the children and grandchildren of lighthouse keepers begins to understand just how isolated and primitive some light stations were. And no lighthouse lover could miss *Lighthouse Ghosts* (12.95) by Norma Elizabeth and Bruce Roberts. Included is the famous tale of Theodosia Burr, daughter of Vice President

Aaron Burr, wandering the sands of Cape Hatteras looking for her lost portrait. Or for a rainy day at the beach, there's *Lighthouse Bingo* (14.00). Simple enough for all ages, this game can be played by 2 – 6 players can be played over and over, while one learns about lighthouses from Hatteras, NC to Split Rock, Minnesota to Old Point Loma, California.



Is somebody in the family interested in the Fort Fisher Hermit? We have copies of the Academy Award nominated PBS documentary, *The Life and Death of Robert E. Harrill* (DVD-18.00) by Rob Hill and narrated by Barry Corbin. Also popular is the new book *The Life and Times of the Fort Fisher Hermit through the Lens of Fred Pickler*. (29.95) v Program speaker on January 19, 2010

And don't forget that we have mugs, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and even decals with features the long lost Federal Point Lighthouse.

### Don't forget the Cookbooks!

***The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society Cookbook* (\$8.50)** was compiled in **1994** by Darlene Bright, Leslie Bright, Sandy Jackson, and Cheri McNeill. Kure Beach pictures include the *1904 Kure Beach Train* and *Battery Buchanan – Confederate Naval Headquarters at New Inlet*. Recipes of 43 local contributors represent “scratch” cooking ingredients (vegetables, ground beef and sausage, chicken, pasta, pound cake ) combined with many new ingredients on the market (bottle sauces and seasonings, packaged cheeses, canned shrimp and oysters, cream soups, stuffing mix and bread crumbs, cake mixes). Scratch recipes typify old and new variations of local favorites such as biscuits, corn bread, sea foods, fried foods and many new packaged ingredients.

Scratch recipes usually means cooking with what is on hand. In the 30s and 40s, scratch meant foods fresh from the garden and a few store bought ingredients such as baked bread and canned tomatoes. By the year 2000, scratch means any ingredient or food - frozen, or packaged- perhaps ready to cook in the oven or put on the table - frozen dinners, salads in a box, ready-to-bake cookies and biscuits. Grandmother wouldn't understand all of the seasonings in envelope mixes available in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Also available at our gift shop is *Modern Recipes From Historic Wilmington* by Merle Chamberlain and the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society. (\$18.00)**



"Illustrations were important in the creation of the cookbook with photographs and sketches of historic buildings - a sketch of William Hooper's house with recipes from a descendant of the Declaration of Independence living in Wilmington; markets and grocery stores, and

## Society Notes

*The History Center is looking for someone to build a scale model of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Federal Point Lighthouse. If you know of anyone who enjoys building "doll house size" models please call Rebecca at the Federal Point History Center at 910-458-0502 or email: [fphps@yahoo.com](mailto:fphps@yahoo.com)*



**Please note: The History Center will be closed Friday, December 25 & Saturday, December 26 as well as Friday, January 1, 2010. We will re-open Saturday, January 2, 2010.**

● **A BIG THANKS** to Pat Bolander, Ron Griffin, Ron & Lore Eccleston, Herb and Jackie Weibe and John Gordon for helping with the Newton Cemetary cleanup on November 21. Since we hadn't had a major storm this year and because we had such a great crew, they were done before 11:00.

● **Membership Information:** Annette Winner, Chairperson. A big welcome to new members Carol Ufferman of Kure Beach and Curly Shands and Pat Rice from Wilmington.

● **History Center News:** Darlene Bright, Director. Volunteers who helped keep the History Center open in September were Lois Taylor, Demetria Sapienza, Juanita Winner, and Pat Bolander. In addition to 55 members and guests at our November meeting, we had 31 visitors at the History Center. Gift Shop Sales totaled \$105.51 Got'em-on-Live and the UDC also held their montly meetings at the center.

● **Board Members please note:** There will be a Board meeting on **Monday January 11, 2010**. The meeting will be at 7:30pm at the History Center. Please plan to attend, so that we have a quorum and can conduct business.

BL  
Bame Ac  
Bert Croom  
Britt's D  
Coastal K-9  
Courtyard  
Fort Fisher Resto  
Frank  
Friends of Br  
Got-Em-On-  
Hanover Iro  
Harbor Mas  
Historical Societ  
Island  
Le SoLeil,Bo  
Muscleworx  
B. Parker Pro  
Pleasure Island Ch  
Russo  
The Shoppe  
Dr. Vincen  
Snow's Cut M  
Taylor's Hea  
Tucker Bros. I

**Please take time  
Members k  
appreciate t**

## Up Coming Community Events

**1st Annual Christmas by the Sea Friday & Saturday nights through December 19.** The Boardwalk ocean will come alive with merriment and decorations, thanks to local businesses and groups who have sponsored the activities will then be held every Friday and Saturday through December 19 from 5-8pm. Activities include Telling, Hot chocolate, Live Nativity Scene, Caroling, Santa (Sat only), Theatre, Choral and band performance and CB Elementary (Sat only), Pleasure Island Drama Club, Cape Fear Roller Girls, Puppet shows, Arts & ornament making activities for the kids. Activities and performances are FREE. Presented by the Boardwalk for more information, visit [www.boardwalkmakeover.org](http://www.boardwalkmakeover.org).

**MARK YOUR 2010 Calendars now! February 11, 2010 Cape Fear History Bowl -- Find Out How History You Know!** Team members are Leslie Bright, Jack Travis, Barry Nelder, and Richard Larwence. Team meeting in early December to get organized and plan strategy. Make plans now to attend the event to cheer on our team!

### Officers

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

### Directors

Leslie Bright, Chair James Dugan  
Elaine Henson Daniel Norris  
Jack Travis Pat Bolander

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