



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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Newsletter

Volume 16 No. 2

February, 2009

Darlene Bright, editor

February Meeting Monday February 16, 2009

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Monday, February 16 at 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center**, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

Our February speakers will be **Beverly Tetterton**, Local History Librarian of the New Hanover County Public Library, and **Karyn**

Crichton of the New Hanover County Planning Department. They will speak on the topic "The State of New Hanover County's Cemeteries – 2009."



Beverly has been saving local cemeteries for over 25 years. While Karyn is a relative newcomer, she has become Beverly's trusted ally when it comes to dealing with developers and others in a big hurry to push projects and plans for growth along too quickly.

Beverly and Karyn will talk to us about what research has been done and give us some ideas of how our Federal Point Historic Preservation Society Cemetery Committee can help with preservation activities for cemeteries in the southern part of the county.

A big thanks to Susan Grantier for presenting a comprehensive history of Bald Head Island at our January meeting. We had a great turnout and heard several people comment on how interesting the program was. Don't forget if you want to visit the lighthouse it's on its Winter schedule and is open Friday and Saturday from 10-4 and on Sunday from 11-4. To schedule Susan's guided history tour of the Island call 910/457-5003.

Fort Fisher Annual Reenactment Weekend A HUGE Success!

Despite chilly weather we had a great turnout for our annual Sausage Dog sale at the Fort Fisher annual reenactment on January 17th. We cleared \$519 after expenses and sold out as usual. Thanks to all the volunteers who pitched in. Leslie and Darlene brought the sausages from Carteret County, and Leslie spent most of a day pre-cooking them. Sylvia pitched in and did the local shopping, and Cheri McNeill, Luanna McGurrien and Paul Thompson helped with the preparation of the onions and peppers. Thanks, too, to everyone who showed up on the day of the event; Leslie & Darlene Bright, Don & Sylvia Snook, Ron and Debbie Price, Cheri McNeill, Lois Taylor, Jim Dugan, Daniel Norris, Ginny Wagner, Luanna McGurrien, Paul Thompson, John Gordon and Elaine Henson. Thanks also to the event's planners, who bought sausage dogs for 90 reenactors. After years of smelling our wares, they finally got to sample them.

“Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown”
Sunday, March 1, 2009

The New Hanover County-wide annual “Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown” will be held on Sunday, March 1st this year. The History Center will be open from 1:00-4:00 pm with members available to give guided tours of our exhibits, answer questions, and talk about the work of the FPHPS. The gift shop will also be open, and we’ll have an updated display of local tourist information.

If you are available to volunteer that afternoon, please call the center and let Rebecca know or leave a message on the History Center phone 458-0502. We also need refreshments, so let us know if you can bring in a batch of cookies or other goodies. Last year we had quite a few people stop by, many of whom weren’t familiar with the History Center or our organization.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN OTHER ACTIVITIES going on that day, there are a bunch that look great! On the Island, Wheel Fun Rentals will offer FREE paddle boats on the Carolina Beach Lake as well as bike rentals at their headquarters. Carolina Beach State Park, Carolina Coastal Adventures, Fort Fisher State Historic Site and Fort Fisher State Recreation Area are also participating.

Or if you’re looking for something *historical*, the Bellamy Mansion Museum, the Burgwin-Wright Museum House, the Ghost Walk of Old Wilmington, the Latimer House Museum, and the Wrightsville Beach Museum of History are all participating.

Even Moore’s Creek National Battlefield has joined in, with musket and blacksmithing demonstrations all day as well as a Colonial Medicine program at 1pm and ranger guided tours at 3 pm. For the complete list of all participating locations, go to the web site: www.capefearcoast.com/hometown.

A Special Invitation
From President Don Snook

As we begin 2009, two committees have already begun to work on some exciting projects. And they have room for more members!

The Cemetery Committee is looking at several projects including mapping local family cemeteries and would welcome others who are interested in this area of local history.

The Oral History Committee is reviewing oral history interviews and looking for other people to interview and also would welcome others.

Both committees will meet in February, but the dates are not set yet.

If you are interested in either committee, call or email Rebecca Taylor at the Center (fphps@yahoo.com) 910.458.0502 or Don Snook (donsnook@charter.net) 910.458.1842 and you will receive more information about these committees’ activities.

ORAL HISTORY
Pearl Winner Fountain
Interviewed and edited by Robin Robertson

Family. That's what Pearl Winner Fountain remembers most when she thinks about growing up at Carolina Beach. That's understandable considering her family and her roots in this area. Pearl, who now lives in Wilmington, is one of Captain Carl Winner's six children. Being the oldest, she helped raise her younger brothers and helped her father with his many business enterprises.

One of her duties included closing her father's businesses at night, especially if he was off on a trip. After closing, she would take the moneybag from the arcade and restaurant and walk home by herself all the way over to Fourth Avenue. That was a time when people left doors unlocked and she never felt afraid. Of course, when she was around nineteen, she learned she had been even safer than she realized. One night she was sitting at the Winner ticket booth. It was a slow night and a couple of policemen were sitting and talking with her. She was surprised when one commented that she really shouldn't walk home like that with the money. Naturally, she questioned how he knew and that was when she found out that they had been following her home every night, keeping an eye on her. For her, that was one of the benefits of living in a small area; it meant "everybody looked out for everybody."

Pearl also helped out at her dad's fishing business. He actually started the party boat business at Carolina Beach, building his own boats in the beginning. Pearl remembers her father often saying, "If you can't build a house, you don't deserve to live in it." She explained that's how he felt about his boats: if he couldn't build them, he didn't deserve to use one to make a living. He was an enterprising man, as well. He kept several boats offshore, using smaller boats to ferry fishermen out to the larger boats. After the war, he began using amphibian "ducks," bringing them up to the south end of the boardwalk where passengers would step right onto the duck for the ride out to the boats.

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Pearl, wearing a white captain's hat, could be found at the ticket office there on the boardwalk. Often, she opened up at 4:30 or 5 o'clock in the morning and would still be there at midnight.

That's actually how her courtship with her future husband, Jim Fountain, began. Jim fondly recalls the time when they were around twelve years old and he would sit with her on the bench on the boardwalk, watching the moon rise over the ocean. Pearl is quick to point out that the reason he was sitting with her so late was that she was working at the ticket office and he would sit and keep her company.

Being at the ticket office also put her in a great position to observe all the action. She laughingly describes it being "like going to the circus" with "wall to wall people" on the weekends. Families would come out to enjoy the amusement park, the arcade, bingo, or just sit on the benches overlooking the ocean and watch other people walk by. There was also plenty of food. Pearl remembers the corn on the cob, served on a stick and slathered with butter, or her favorite, Britt's doughnuts with a scoop of ice cream for breakfast. She also ate lots of hot dogs from Cliff Smith's Landmark; in fact, she ate so many of them back then that she doesn't eat hot dogs to this day.

Families would come out to enjoy the amusement park, the arcade, bingo, or just sit on the benches overlooking the ocean and watch

Pearl's long hours kept her busy, so busy that she didn't actually date until she was nineteen. Although she was working all the time, she did meet a lot of people and kept up with some of them for years. She still gets Christmas cards from some of them. She admits that some people might not have found it as much fun as she did, but for her it was pleasant: "You think back what people paid to go to the beach and enjoy all that, and I had it day in and day out. Even if I was working, I could observe it. Families would go to the restaurant and eat, and then they would just parade up and down the boardwalk, eating cotton

candy, popcorn, snowballs, salt water taffy. It was the good old days. Very family. And I got to know a lot of people that way...from all walks of life. Farmers, people from up North on their way to Florida would stop in and end up coming back and buying, settling down here. You know it was just a good family place.” She emphasized that while some may claim it was a “roustabout” that it wasn’t. Even with all the military, she never saw much trouble.

Life became a bit darker during the war. As a child during World War II, Pearl recalls their windows painted black and seeing action off on the skyline at night. It didn’t really affect her activity since she was only a little girl and “just did what Dad said.” War, however, did affect the family. Her mother, like many women during the war, went to work, becoming one of the first female bus drivers in Wilmington. Although the family had six children, her father joined the Merchant Marines, feeling it was his duty.

As a child during World War II, Pearl recalls their windows painted black and seeing action off on the skyline at night.

Also like other families during the war, the Winners rented out rooms in their home. They were fortunate to have a big two-story home, so they converted a couple of rooms to rent out to people working at the shipyard. As well as providing income for them, it helped out those who were from out of town but working in Wilmington. She remembers other sacrifices, including ration coupons for sugar, flour, and gas. However, with six children, they were never short since they received coupons for each one. And if there were extras, they shared, giving them to people who needed them.

Her favorite memories include more than just family. There were many special people she met during her early years at Carolina Beach. One of those people is Hannah Block, a well-known figure in New Hanover County. Mrs. Block helped organize the first Miss North Carolina Pageant in 1947 and used her show business experience to coach young ladies for pageants. One of those she coached was Pearl. Pearl laughingly recalls Hannah approaching her about the Miss Wilmington pageant. Pearl didn’t feel that it was her thing, but Mrs. Block succeeded in convincing her to represent Carolina Beach. Mrs. Block did more than just coach Pearl; she took her under her wing, having Pearl stay at her home, taking her shopping for a wardrobe to take to Raleigh for the state pageant, and traveling with her on the train to Atlanta for the Miss Southern Belle pageant, where Pearl represented North Carolina.

Eventually Pearl went off to school and worked for a couple of years with the CIA. She married the guy from her childhood at Carolina Beach and traveled with him while he was in the Air Force. She and Jim settled down in Wilmington in the 1960’s and still make this area their home.

What’s in a Name? “Federal Point”

The following appeared in the FPAPS Newsletter in 2002

“The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society is named for Federal Point Township, which makes up a large portion of New Hanover County southward of Monkey Junction, bounded on the west by the Cape Fear River and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean. The peninsula includes many neighborhoods along River Road and Myrtle Grove Sound including Seabreeze. South of Snow’s Cut lies Carolina Beach, Wilmington Beach, Hanby Beach, Kure Beach and Fort Fisher. Wilmington Beach was recently annexed into Carolina Beach, and Hanby Beach was annexed into Kure Beach.

Even though some of these communities are relatively new, this whole area is rich in history from prehistoric time, when native Indians frequented the area, through the period of colonization and early settlement, the Civil War and both World Wars. The earliest mention of Federal Point by name appears on a map engraved by Joshua Potts around 1777. However, it is generally accepted that it was named during the 1790’s in honor of the new Federal Government and the ratification of the United States Constitution by North Carolina in 1789. In 1861, with the onset of the Civil War, the Confederates changed the name to Confederate Point, but it was changed back again in 1865 with the fall of Fort Fisher and the occupation of Wilmington.”

Society Notes

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 Gazette
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

● **Membership Information:** Debbie Price, Chairperson. We would like to welcome new member **Steve Baddour of Washington, DC** to our Society. We also received a \$25.00 donation in honor of Elaine Henson from the North Carolina Sorosis.

We are currently mailing the monthly Newsletter to 105 member households and 15 business members. We also mail about 50 Newsletters to libraries, people in the "history business," former speakers, and local town and county elected officials. In total that's just under \$75.00 a month in postage + the cost of copies and labels.

*Soooo! We'd love to convert your Newsletter subscription to the electronic version if you are comfortable with the internet and e-mail. Oh, and you get all the pictures **IN COLOR!** Just e-mail to FPHPS@Yahoo.com and let me know to add you to the electronic list.*

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

● **History Center News:** Darlene Bright, Director. Thanks to our great History Center volunteers! This month, Juanita Slaughter, Jeannie Gordon, Pat Bolander, Ron Griffin, Sylvia Snook and Lois Taylor helped "man the desk" and get out the newsletter. A big thanks also goes to Margaret Miles who gave up her day off from the Public Library to help Rebecca get the new computer unpacked and set up.

This month we had 68 visitors at the History Center compared to just 27 in January of 2008! Also both Got-Em-On-Live and the UDC had their monthly meetings at the History Center as well.

I do need to make a correction from last month's newsletter. Attendance at the Christmas Social exceeded 60 people, which was as many as any of the old-timers could remember!

Gift shop income was \$986.55 which includes \$186.55 for books and general gift shop items, \$80.00 in profit from ATTRACTIONS, and \$720.00 from sales of MY FRIEND THE ENEMY to Fort Fisher. January is generally a slow month!

Around About: Community Events

VITA Tax Preparation. Mondays and Wednesdays 3-7 pm, Tuesdays 1-4 pm. Carolina Beach Recreation Center behind Town Hall. FREE.

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Thursday, February 12, 6:30 pm. Historian Rod Andrews presents "An Evening with Wade Hampton." Dinner is at the Cape Fear Club, 206 Chestnut St. Tickets \$27.00 Send payment to: CFCWRT, P.O. Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408. Questions: call Dan Geddie, 910/799-5338.

Kure Beach Community Spirit Awards Dinner Saturday, March 21, 2009 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Kure Beach Community Center. Nominations due by February 28, nomination forms available at Kure Beach Town Hall.



Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce announced 2009 Events Schedule

13th Annual Chowder Cook-off. April 18th 11:30-5:00 pm. People's Choice and Judges' Choice will be announced around 5:00 pm. \$5.00.

9th Annual Touch of Class Charity Auction Courtyard Marriott, CB. Silent Auction:5:00 pm, Dinner 6:00–7:30, Live Auction 7:30 pm.

4th Annual Pleasure Island Shag Competition June 5 Shanty's Blues and Beach Club. \$5.00 in advance, \$8.00 at the door.

24th Annual Pleasure Island Beach Music Festival (on the beach) June 6. Tickets \$10.00 in advance, \$15.00 at the Gate.

Independence Day Fireworks Extravaganza July 3rd

16th Annual Seafood, Blues and Jazz Festival October 10-11. Ft. Fisher Air Force Recreation Area. Two-day Advance Ticket \$30.00, Saturday only: \$30.00, Sunday only : \$15.00. Children 12 and under: free.

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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