



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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Newsletter

Volume 16 No. 5

May, 2009

Darlene Bright, editor
Rebecca Taylor, production

May Meeting

Monday May 18, 2009

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Monday, May 18, 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center**, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

Our speaker this month will be the renowned naturalist Andy Wood. He will speak about the natural environment of the Lower Cape Fear and about the plants and animals we share this special area with.

Andy began working for Audubon North Carolina in October 2000. Prior to his post with Audubon, he served for 13 years as the Education Curator for the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. Andy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fishery Science from Texas A&M University in 1981.

In his role with Audubon, Andy is building partnerships with rural schools and community organizations to develop content-based teacher workshops that will enable teachers to infuse outdoor-based environmental education into their classroom lesson plans. He is part of National Audubon's climate change efforts aimed at legislative and education efforts. Andy is a member of the Non-game Wildlife Advisory Committee for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and a founding Steering Committee member for the NC Birding Trail—an initiative designed to enhance and develop bird-related tourism to help support sustainable tourism opportunities in North Carolina with a focus on economically distressed communities.

In addition to his education work, Andy is the principal investigator for the propagation and study of two rare freshwater snails, both endemic to southeastern North Carolina.

From 1987 to the present, Andy has reported his observations in nature as a weekly radio commentator on Wilmington's public radio station WHQR, and a compilation of this work appears in Andy's first book: *Backyard Carolina: Two Decades of Public Radio Commentary*.



April Program

Jim McKee on "Dig" at Brunswick Town

Jim McKee, Staff Historian at the Brunswick Town State Historic Site, spoke to the Society about the archaeological excavations currently being done at the site. The first dig, conducted by John J. Mintz from the Office of North Carolina State Archeology, took place between April 6-9 and explored the site of Gun Emplacement # 3, Battery B of the Fort Anderson Civil War ruins. A second dig is scheduled for May at the site of the Fort Anderson's barracks. Jim gave us a first hand report on what they are finding and on upcoming improvements at the site, including new access for people with disabilities. It was a fascinating program and there were many questions from the audience.

Kure Beach Street Fair

A HUGE THANKS FOR ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Saturday, April 25 turned out to be a glorious sunny day. Cheri McNeil chaired the committee that maned our booth on K Street. Thanks so much to Annette and Skippy Winner for transportation and set-up. Among the people who worked the booth throughout the day included Pat and Kitty Slebodnik, Don and Sylvia Snook, Gene and Kay Stains, Pat Bolander, Jim Dugan, Paul Thompson and Lois Taylor. They gave out brochures and membership information to the throngs who passed by. They also sold a bunch of t-shirts and books for a profit of \$117.00. All in all it was a most successful day.

President's Message

May 6, 2009

Greetings to all!

I would like to remind everyone of the opportunity to participate in the society's exciting projects.

The Oral History Committee is looking at a number of projects designed to develop the great work that has already been done in gathering the memories of our elders and in identifying others for interview. We hope to consolidate some of the information gleaned from these sources into articles for the newsletter and other publications. Ann Hertzler has already been doing great work on food and family in the area, and *Snow's Cut Magazine* is interested in publishing her work.

The Cemetery Committee is building on the great presentation given to the group on Monday, February 16 on the county's involvement in historical cemetery identification, preservation, and documentation. At our February meeting we visited the Winner family cemetery next to the Checkered Church and identified a number of potential mapping projects.

If you are interested in either or both of them, please contact Rebecca Taylor at the Center: 910-458-0502. She can tell you when the committees will be meeting in May. Her E-mail is fpaps@yahoo.com

On a personal note, I have enjoyed my term as president very much, and after it ends in June will work on both of these committees, despite some lengthy travel in late 2009.

I have been very impressed, and humbled, at the energy and knowledge of the members of the society. It has been a privilege to serve the society.

Donald G. Snook, President

Slavery in Early United States From The Annals of America, Vol. 8 By William Benton

The ongoing regional differences of opinion on the institution of slavery continued as government and politicians became more involved. Moral issues, economic issues, political posturing, territorial expansion, and even legislation itself exacerbated the slavery question. Eventually the existing United States became divided politically into slave and free states. There was a power struggle to maintain an advantage, or at least a balance of power, between the industrial north, who had little need for slaves, and the agrarian south where slavery appeared essential. As western territories applied for statehood to the Union, the United States Senate became a political battle ground to insure that a balance of political power be achieved. Compromise was thought by some to be the solution. Others did not. On March 4, 1850, Senator John C. Calhoun of South Carolina spoke out against Senator Henry Clay's compromise resolutions as he was deeply troubled by open threats of division and succession. He said:

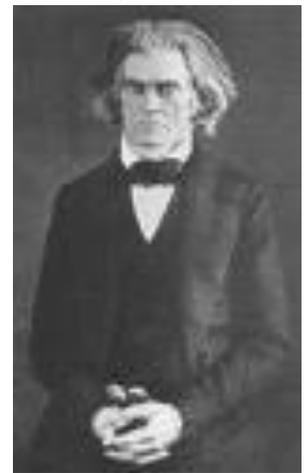
"I have, Senators, believed from the first that the agitation of the subject of slavery would, if not prevented by some timely and effective measure, end in disunion. Entertaining this opinion, I have, on all proper occasions, endeavored to call the attention of each of the two great parties which divide the country to adopt some measure to prevent so great a disaster, but without success. The agitation has been permitted to proceed, with almost no attempt to resist it, until it has reached a period when it can no longer be disguised or denied that the Union is in danger. You have thus had forced upon you the greatest and the gravest question that can ever come under your consideration: How can the Union be preserved?"

To give a satisfactory answer to his mighty question, it is indispensable to have an accurate and thorough knowledge of the nature and the character of the cause by which the Union is endangered. Without such knowledge, it is impossible to pronounce, with any certainty, by what measure it can be saved. . . .

The first question, then... is: What is it that has endangered the Union?..

One of the causes is undoubtedly, to be traced to the long continued agitation of the slave question on the part of the North and the many aggressions which they have made on the rights of the South during the time. . .

There is another lying back of it, with which this is intimately connected, that may be regarded as the great and primary cause. That is to be found in the fact that the equilibrium between the two sections in the government, as it stood when the Constitution was ratified and the government put into action, has been destroyed. At that time there was nearly a perfect equilibrium between the two





which afforded ample means to each to protect itself against the aggression of the other; but, as it now stands, one section has the exclusive power of controlling the government, which leaves the other without any adequate means of protecting itself against its encroachment and oppression....

The result of the whole is to give the Northern section a predominance in every part of the government and thereby concentrate in it the two elements which constitute the federal government – a majority of states and a majority of their population, estimated in federal numbers. Whatever section concentrates the two in itself possesses the control of the entire government.”

On May 30, 1854, Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which repealed the Missouri Compromise and made slavery theoretically possible in all territories. Reaction in the North was immediate and vehement, and Senator Stephen A. Douglas, who was responsible for the bill, returned to his home state of Illinois to get away from the clamor against him and to defend the new law. Beginning at Springfield he made a series of speeches



throughout the state. Abraham Lincoln, who had been out of the public eye since his term in Congress in 1847-1849, replied to Douglas on the issues that were disturbing the North:

“Before proceeding, let me say that I think I have no prejudice against the Southern people. They are just what we would be in their situation. If slavery did not now exist among them, they would not introduce it. If it did now exist among us, we should not instantly give it up. This I believe of the masses, North and South. Doubtless there are individuals on both sides who would not hold slaves under any circumstances, and others who would gladly introduce slavery anew if it were out of existence. We know that some Southern men do free their slaves, go North and become tip-top Abolitionists, while some Northern ones go South and become most cruel slave masters.

When Southern people tell us they are no more responsible for the origin of slavery than we are, I acknowledge the fact. When it is said that the institution exists and that it is very difficult to get rid of it in any satisfactory way, I can understand and appreciate the saying. I surely will not blame them for not doing what I should not know how to do myself. If all earthly power were given me, I should not know what to do as to the existing institution. My first impulse would be to free all the slaves and send them to Liberia, to their own native land. But a moment’s reflection would convince me that whatever of high hope (as I think there is) there may be in this in the long run, its sudden execution is impossible. If they were all landed there in a day, they would all perish in the next ten days, and there are not surplus shipping and surplus money enough to carry them there in many times ten days. What then? Free them all and keep them among us as underlings? Is it quite certain that this betters their condition? I think I would not hold one in slavery, at any rate; yet the point is not clear enough for me to denounce people upon.

What next? Free them and make them politically and socially our equals? My own feelings will not admit of this, and if mine would, we well know that those of the great mass of white peoples will not. Whether this feeling accords with justice and sound judgment is not the sole question, if, indeed, it is any part of it. A universal feeling, whether well- or ill-founded, cannot be safely disregarded. We cannot, then, make them equals. It does seem to me that systems of gradual emancipation might be adopted; but for their tardiness in this, I will not undertake to judge our brethren of the South...”

Oral History

John, Mae, and Glenn Flowers

Interview conducted by Ann Hertzler

In 1937 **John and Mae Flowers** started renting a cottage for the summer near the ocean front road near Kure Pier. Owned by Will Kure, a third Kure brother, the cottages had a small kitchenette with an oil cooking stove.

John and Mae moved permanently to Kure Beach in 1941, during the war to work in the ship yard. In Kure Beach John opened a 3 chair barber shop in a room back of Clarence Danner’s fish market. Outside was a “liars bench” so dubbed because the men sat there, talked, gossiped, and told tales. John built their first house on South 5th Avenue, a dirt road between J & K Streets hauling dirt to fill the swamp. In the 50s he made the house two story and built cottages nearby.



Kure Beach Liar's Bench



Son **Glenn Flowers** (1928-2009), dropped out of school at about 12 years of age. At 16 (he was really 15) he worked a Civil Service position in the Ft. Fisher Post Exchange running a beer garden – 10 cents for a regular bottle of beer. Glen also worked at the main PX next to the radar building. He passed the test for the Coast Guard, spent 3 years in the merchant marines, and married Marie in 1947. He served as Kure Beach fire chief for a number of years.

He carried people in a motor boat out in the bay to the cribbings and inlets to fish. The first day was very busy with 75 new recruits from Fort Fisher. For several seasons he and his wife ran a little snack shop at the bay where they rented poles and sold bait. Glenn ran boats for deep sea fishing for 30 some years at Carolina Beach and the end of Fort Fisher Bay - the Comet (40s), the Linda Marie (50s), and the

Stella May (60s). He furnished bait and a hand line with about 5 per boat and charged \$5 each.

Before Wilmington had a TV station Glen bought a TV from a Kannapolis salesman receiving stations from Charlotte, NC and Omaha, Nebraska. The government bought their 7th street property in the buffer zone behind the Baptist church. They moved their 4 room army barracks house to J Street and added a living room and bed room. About 1980 Glen gave up boating and worked on construction, piping, welding, repairing lawn mowers, and building race cars for Sunday afternoon races at Carolina Beach.



Glen and Marie Flowers

What Were They Thinking? From the Bill Reaves - Federal Point Files

Well it's done! It has taken two years for the FPHPS History Center volunteers to finish transcribing three boxes of 3X5 cards from the Bill Reaves - Federal Point files into digital format. A HUGE thanks to Gail McCloskey, Lois Taylor, Cathy Wahnefried, and Juanita Winner who typed and typed and typed, sometimes in the middle of the night. The files are now available for keyword searching at both the History Center and the Local History Room at the New Hanover County Public Library in Wilmington. There are some truly wonderful stories in these files and I will be using some of them in upcoming Newsletters. This month we look at:

Sea Turtles

June 14, 1891 Carolina Beach Notes: Turtle egg hunting is engaged in by all the residents with much success.

June 22, 1896 Mr. McSween, engineer on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, caught a large turtle near the hotel and presented it to the guests of the Hotel Oceanic. The turtle weighed about 400 pounds and measured 5 feet by 3 1/2 feet. It was to be served on Friday at 5 p.m. WILM. MESSENGER, 6-24-1896.

June 24, 1897 Carolina Beach Notes: A turtle which had been recently captured was butchered by Mr. Will West and was found to contain 613 eggs after laying 133 earlier, making a total of 746. Turtle steak and soup was added to the Sunday menu. WILM. DISPATCH, 6-24-1897.

June 27, 1915 The party started out primarily for the purpose of hunting for turtles and did find a turtle nest. A turtle weighing 200 pounds was captured at the beach and it was later liberated at the urgent request of a large number of visitors, who were moved to sympathy by the turtle's tears. WILM. DISPATCH, 6-28-1915.



August 2, 1915 A turtle weighing about 200 pounds was captured at Carolina Beach Saturday night at 11 p.m. in front of Mr. Thomas E. Cooper's cottage. The turtle had come ashore to build a nest. An examination of the nest a few minutes later revealed 98 eggs. Mr. Joseph J. Loughlin was summoned because of his experience with turtles. The turtle did not give much resistance and was turned over on his back. Biddle Brothers, who conducted a restaurant, was to use the turtle in making soup. WILM. DISPATCH, 8-2-1915.

June 25, 1922 "Madam Turtle," aged about 500 years, was lured on the beach to the edge of the boardwalk by the electric light at the Fort Fisher Beach mistaking it for the moon. She was also lured by the sweet music of the "Rockaway Five" orchestra. If she had not been disturbed by all these influences, she probably would have laid her hundred eggs. Lawrence Kure and E.W.L. Gilbert, assisted by a score of visitors, dragged the turtle up to the pavilion where she was placed on exhibition. She weighed about 500 pounds. After exhibiting, she was to be returned to the Atlantic Ocean. Before she was disturbed she had laid about eleven eggs. At some time in her long life, she had probably met a shark as her right hind foot was gone. WILM. DISPATCH, 6-26-1922.

July 25, 1926 A Sea Turtle weighing between 400 and 500 pounds was captured alive at Fort Fisher by Walter Winner, W.P. Holmes, H.E. Rouark, J.C. Pigott. The turtle was exhibited at Mr. Winner's place of business. 114 eggs were also found. WILM. STAR, 7-16-1926

August 6, 1931 A truck was employed at Fort Fisher Beach in effecting the capture of a 500 pound sea turtle. Walter Winner had caught one turtle and was returning with a truck to haul it in when a second was spotted. The turtle was frightened by the noise of the truck and headed back into the waves but the truck pulled in front of it and it was stopped. The turtle was loaded on the truck, and Mr. Winner and his companions proceeded to pick up the first turtle now lying on its back. WILM. NEWS, 8-7-1931.

June 14, 1933 Walter Winner, sport fisherman of Fort Fisher, reported that someone had murdered several large sea turtles within the past few nights as they came up on the beach to lay their eggs between Carolina Beach and Fort Fisher. Some of the turtles had been killed by large clubs and knives. On June 13th, a party of Asheville fisherman caught a 100-pound turtle nearby. WILM. NEWS, 6-14-1933.

Society Notes

- **Membership Information:** Debbie Price, Chairperson. Sadly, No new Members this month. Debbie and Rebecca are talking about a business member drive for later this summer and early fall. WE NEED a few more members to help recruit. Please let Debbie or Rebeca of you'd be willing to help.
- **History Center News:** Darlene Bright, Director. Our volunteers who helped keep the History Center open in April were Elaine Henson and Lois Taylor. In addition to approximately 36 members and guests at our April meeting, we had 60 visitors at the History Center, and an additional 51 for Chris Fonvielle's walk. Gift Shop Sales totaled \$178.67. Both Got'em-on-Live and the UDC held their montly meeings at the center.
- **Park Day – Fort Fisher State Historic Site.** Pat Bolander and Mary Ann Targonski represented the Society at this year's "clean up" day at the Fort Fisher State Historic Site. Held annually at Civil War historic sites across the country Pat and Mary Ann were part of a huge workforce that included 80 Boy Scouts at our local site. Pat and Mary Ann worked on the landscaping around the museum; in fact the site staff said that Mary Ann was the hardest worker of the day. Thanks gals!

May is Preservation Month!

The Historic Wilmington Foundation has a HUGE month of programs planned.

For more information on any of the events or to make reservation call Gareth Evans at 910-762-2511

Tues. 12th Wilmington In the Balance: City at War.

This lecture is part 1 of 3 exploring Wilmington's transition from a quiet seaport to the most important city in the Confederacy. Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Cape Fear Museum, 7pm \$25 -three events; \$20 - two; \$10 - one.



Sat. 16th Stories of Wilmington's War Dead. Tour North Carolina's first 'rural cemetery' and discover the Civil War personalities buried there. Part 2 in our series. Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Oakdale Cemetery, 520 N. 15th St., 10am

Tues. 19th Closing Down the Kingdom: The Fall of Wilmington. Part 3 of the series asks you to visualize Union and Confederate perspectives from the siege of Fort Fisher to the capture of Wilmington. Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Cape Fear Museum, 7pm

Weds. 20th Under the Kudzu Discover the fascinating history of Pender County's Rosenwald Schools with educator and filmmaker Claudia Stack. NHC Library downtown, 6pm - *free*

Sat. 23rd Pine Forest Cemetery Tour Established in 1860 as a cemetery for colored residents our tour follows the presentation of the James & Rosalie Carr Memorial Plaque. Architectural historian Janet Seapker, 4:30pm - *free*

Tues. 26th Most Threatened Places List Announcement

Secretary of NC Dept. of Cultural Resources Linda A. Carlisle & State Historic Preservation Officer Jeffrey Crow present the 2009 list of the Most Threatened Places in our region. Site to be announced, 11am



Thurs. 28th HWF Preservation Awards 6:30pm Awards to be presented for restoration, rehabilitation, compatible infill and adaptive reuse projects as well as Awards of Merit, the Katherine Howell Award for service to HWF and the Brinkley Preservationist of the Year. Reception follows. Event co-sponsored by Frameworks, Residents of Old Wilmington and Wilmington Downtown, Inc. Historic NHC Courthouse, 24 N. 3rd St. - *free*

Sat. 30th Bald Head Island Tour Catch the 10am ferry and enjoy a 1.5 hour guided tram tour of this historic and beautiful island, followed by a visit to the Old Baldy lighthouse and museum. \$35

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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