



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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Newsletter

Volume 16 No. 11

November, 2009

Darlene Bright, editor
Rebecca Taylor, production

November Meeting

Monday November 16, 2009

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



Ellen Kure

Our program this month will be a showing a section of the video *The Kure Family Legacy* made in 1991, produced by the Kure Family. Featured in the narration are A. E. "Punky" Kure, Pat Robertson Rice, Mike Robertson and the late Jennie Kure Robertson Bagley. The story concentrates on the early years from Hans Anderson Kure and his wife Ellen's immigration to America and the establishment of their family in Wilmington. Hans was a ship's chandler and owner of numerous warehouses and steamers in the early 1890s, when Wilmington was a large and prosperous port. We learn about the first generation, William, Hans, Lawrence, Andrew, and Elene and their initial



Hans A. Kure

Invited to join us for the evening are "Punky" Kure, Mike Robertson, and Pat Rice who will answer questions and lead a discussion on the history of the Kure Family. The program is in memory of Jennie Bagley, who passed away in September. She was a charter member of Kure Lutheran Memorial Church, and worked at UNC-Wilmington and UNC-Chapel Hill. Her memories provide a fascinating peek at the early years of the development of Fort Fisher Seabeach, and the Kure Beach pier.

Last Month's Meeting

Elaine Henson who gave an entertaining pictorial talk about Major William Snow and the creation of Snow's Cut in 1929. Elaine has many pictures of Carolina Beach prior to the Cut. The Major graduated from West Point in 1916 as an engineer, came to Wilmington in 1926 and built a lovely home in 1927 which is still an active residence. He was assigned to manage the IntraCoastal Waterway from Beaufort to the mouth of the Cape Fear River. The first bridge to Carolina Beach was a one-lane swing bridge, and that one was replaced in 1962 with the current four-lane high rise.

Trip to Penderlea

Elaine Henson and Ann Cottle organized a wonderful trip to the Penderlea Homestead Museum near Wallace. Along with Elaine and Ann longtime FPHPS members Darlene & Leslie Bright, Lois and Rebecca Taylor and Connie Burns as well as new members Bettie West and Charlotte Davis gathered at the Mad Boar Restauarnt just off I-40. Joining us were Candace McGreevy and 5 Latimer House docents from the Historical Society of the Lower Cape Fear. We had a great time "cross polinating" and sharing stories of many adventures in local history. Leslie Bright won the day with his stories of finding shipwrecks all along coastal NC.

After lunch we set off across country to visit the Potts Memorial Presbyterian Church. We saw their fellowship hall which was originally built here on Federal Point where it served as the chapel for the WWII Air Force Base. Then we toured the beautiful sanctuary building which was originally the church at Camp Davis. Both buildings were taken apart and moved board by board and

brick by brick to the Penderlea community when the government no longer needed them. You can even see some of the the markings that the master carpenter made on each piece to tell him how to re-assemble each building.

From the church we drove to the nearby Homestead Museum located in one the the original 10 houses. They have done a wonderful job of restoring the building and its out-buildings and have a great many items on display. From kitchen goods and period clothing to pictures of Eleanor Roosevelt's visit in August of 1937 depression era family life comes alive. If you haven't been up there it's a perfect day trip into a very different and unique era of time.



Penderlea Homestead Museum, Wallace NC



**Cape Fear History Bowl
Thursday February 11, 2010
Mark Your Calendars Now!**

We now have more details on the History Bowl. The teams we'll be playing against are Moore's Creek National Battlefield, The Lower Cape Fear Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and The Friends of the New Hanover County Library. The contest is a multiple choice quiz with all teams playing at the same time. Every time a team gets a right answer they get a point, and the team with the most points wins. The competition will be at Historic New Hanover Courthouse and we need not only team members but a cheering section to support the team. OH, and many of the questions come from the NC 8th grade curriculum so we're working on a collection of books for team members to peruse.

It's now time to get our team together, and begin practicing. **PLEASE let Rebecca know if you are interesting in being a player or alternate.** We will try to schedule at least one practice before the holidays and then several more practices in January.

President's Message

The year 2009 is fast drawing to a close. As I write this message, there are exactly 8 weeks until New Year's Day, 2010.

At our November meeting on the 16th, we will be having a presentation from the Oral History Committee. It should be very informative and I hope we have a good turnout.

Looking ahead to December, we are planning to have our monthly meeting and pot-luck dinner offsite at a location in "downtown" Kure Beach. The precise location has not been determined as of the time of this writing, but will be by our November meeting. For those who will not be able to attend the November meeting, call the History Center after November 16th for details on time, place and directions.

As you start to think about holiday gifts for friends and family, keep in mind the many wonderful items in our gift shop that might be the perfect gift for someone on your list.

I hope everyone enjoys the Thanksgiving Holiday coming up this month.

Ron Griffin

**Historic Feature -- Kure Beach Progressive Association
By Ann Hertzler**

From a notebook from the 1940s at the KB town hall details work of the Kure Beach Progressive Association.

A meeting of the citizens of Kure Beach was held in the Kure Memorial Chapel Monday night, Dec 31, 1945 with 16 present. Mr. Weinburg, acting chairman, explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways and means of securing fire protection, as the only security now is the insurance carried... Mr. L.C.Kure would furnish the water and fittings; decided that we purchase 500' of hose. Property owners were contacted and informed of actions. (\$200 pledged, \$115 paid)

Jan 8, 1946 " Kure Beach Progressive Association"

Chairman Mr. L. E. Wienburg
Secy Mrs. C B Fry
Treas Mr. L. C. Kure
Advisory Committee. – Bob Ford, L. C. Kure, FM Steinfurth
Other Committees elected: By-Laws, Auditing, Financial, Maintenance
Mr. Kure reported the hose is expected next week. Cost \$284.50

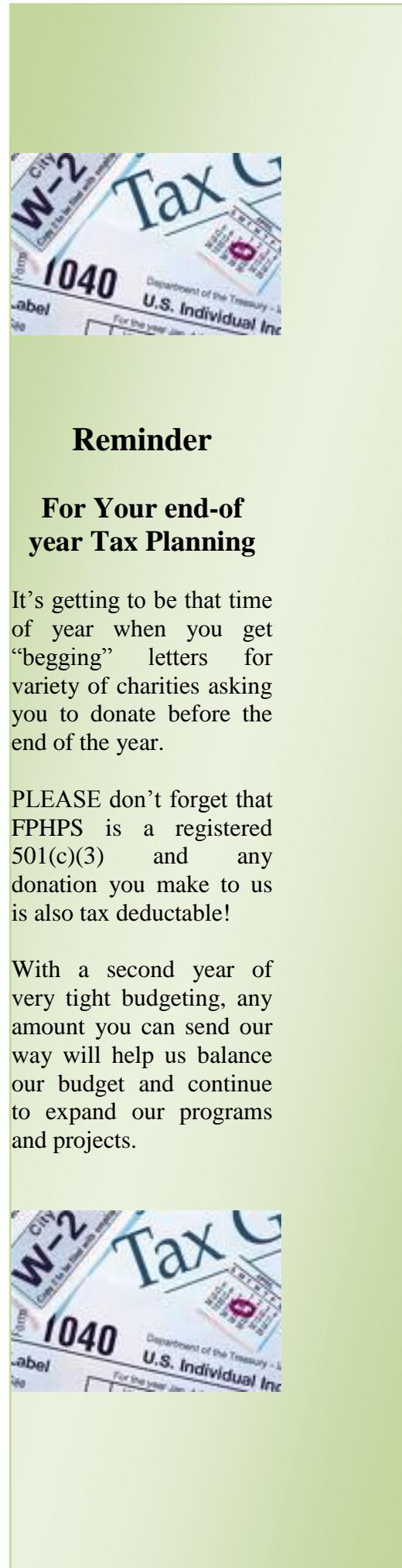
Jan 15, 1946 Mr. Kure made a trip to Fayetteville to look at a fire truck; not successful. Mr. Manning reported a ford truck has been sent to Camp Davis for sale.

Jan 22, 1946 A motion was made to photograph the ponds of water and take before the County Commissioners in regards to sanitary conditions in and around Kure Beach

Jan 29, 1946 5th meeting

Photographs of the ponds, ditches and other places of stagnation has been made by Mrs. Weinburg; to be taken to County Commissioners, ... along with as many members as possible, especially the ladies, anda signed petition.

Feb 5, 1946 Ways and Means Comm: Mrs. Hewitt, Chr, plans of suppers, dances, shows, Bingo, etc. but the question is where these events are to be given considering meetings are now being held in the Chapel. Mr. Weinburg offers his new building for quick use; Mr. Kure offers his building next to Mr. Flowers Store... Suggestions to secure Brakers Hall dance room for the dances. Two turkeys to be donated by Mr. Flowers and Mr. Kure for a turkey supper. Col. Pool asked about trash disposal. Mrs. Weinburg volunteered to survey residents willing to pay to haul away all garbage.



Reminder

**For Your end-of
year Tax Planning**

It's getting to be that time of year when you get "begging" letters for variety of charities asking you to donate before the end of the year.

PLEASE don't forget that FPHPS is a registered 501(c)(3) and any donation you make to us is also tax deductible!

With a second year of very tight budgeting, any amount you can send our way will help us balance our budget and continue to expand our programs and projects.

Our Business Members

BB&T
 Bame Ace Hardware
 Bert Croom Investigations
 Britt's Donut Shop
 Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc.
 Courtyard by Marriott
 Fort Fisher Restoration Committee
 Frank's Pizza
 Friends of Brunswick Town
 Got-Em-On-Live Bait Club
 Hanover Iron Works, Inc.
 Harbor Masters Restaurant
 Historical Society of Topsail Island
Island Gazette
 Le SoLeil Botique and Gallery
 Musclexorx Fitness Systems
 B. Parker Protective & Lock
 Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce
 Russo's Motel
 The Shoppes at Squigley's
 Dr. Vincent Smith, DDS
Snow's Cut Monthly Magazine
 Taylor's Heating & Air, Inc.
 Tucker Bros. Realty Company

**Please take time to let our Business
 Members know how you appreciate
 their support of our work!**

Feb 12, 1946 Mesars Kure, Hers? And Ford went to Ft Fisher to see about a Fire Truck – found a building for \$50 that can be demounted and moved; and put on a lot donated by Mr. Kure to house the fire truck and other equipment. Proposal for street lighting explained in detail; and the fire alarm system. (a strong siren and other fire alarms.)

Feb 19, 1946 The turkey supper will be held at Jim's Café Saturday night the 23, at \$1.00/ plate.

March 5, 1946 Mr. Pinkston is trying to secure safety Highway signs to be posted at the intersection.

March 12, 1946 Mr. King reports that at present time the fire truck is being housed in the McManus Garage. As this is to small he suggests the pipe etc be moved from the pump house to take care of truck.

Mr. King reports no sirene on truck and suggests we look into this. Meeting of the Home Demonstration Club will be held at Mrs. Tanners Wed. afternoon. Mr. OBrien announced a Benefit supper for the Chapel will be given Friday

March 19, 1946 The siren in Wilmington was not acceptable; agreed to order a streamline flasher type for \$16.02.

March 26, 1946 Specine Committee: called on Dr. Elliott and he gave assurance of full cooperation and with authority from Sheriff Jones. He appointed Chief Pinkston on the health force for our Territory...

April 2, 1936 Mr Kure reports that the Tide Water Power Co had approved our proposal but are unable to furnish the necessary supplies at the present time. Mr. Kure states that if we will join him in setting the poles he will furnish the wire and power for temporary lights – to be discussed.

April 16, 1946 Mr. A Nichols, City Mgn of Wilmington offers to sell the fire truck we now have for \$1250.

Mr. King reports lights on Avenue K now complete.

Mrs. Tavis reports a Turkey Supper will be given April 27 at the Sea Gull restaurant.

June 25, 1946 Mr. Flowers: proposed constitution and By Laws; held for study till the next meeting. (passed Aug 13)

The city manage will accept \$1000 for the truck, a cash payment of \$600 and \$400 to be paid. Mr. Kure reports that the drainage proposal has been accepted (proposal not included).

Hans A. Kure – From the Bill Reaves files 1889-1899

(Files owned by the New Hanover County Public Library)

The first mention of Hans Kure in the *Bill Reaves Files* is in the *Wilmington Messenger* on April 16, 1889. H. A. Kure is “offering the Carolina Beach Club House and furniture for rent for the season.” Later that year (August 10, 1889) the *Messenger* reports that he is building a “pretty cottage at Carolina Beach.”

In June of 1890 we find this wonderful account of a bear hunt: “A bear hunt was organized at Carolina Beach with thirty men and a pack of good trained dogs taking part in the campaign against ‘Bruin.’ The leader of the group was Mr. George L. Morton. The bear was first seen on June 22nd by Mr. Hans A. Kure, about 1 1/2 miles below Carolina Beach. On the 25th a party was organized by Mr. Morton and went in search of the game. They found the bear, a big black fellow, about 10 p.m., near the surf some two miles below Carolina Beach. They got two or three shots at him before he escaped into the woods.”

A year later (May 21, 1891) the *Wilmington Star* reported on an interesting fishing trip: “Messrs. Hans A. Kure, G. Smith, and Charlie Williams went over on the wreck of the old blockade runner BEAUREGARD and caught seventy-five fine fish in about thirty minutes. In the lot was a sheephead that weighed fifteen pounds. This big fish was baked and made a meal for nine persons.”

The next month this advertisement runs in the *Wilmington Messenger* (June 9, 1891): “Hans A. Kure has erected a building at Carolina Beach for amusements, which included a first class bowling alley, billiard and pool tables. The building also included a No.1 family grocery store. Oranges, lemons, bananas, and other fruits always on hand. A full assortment of canned goods. Ice available in any quantity.”

In August of the same year this delightful little note appears in the *Weekly Star* (August 7, 1891): “Mr. H. A. Kure was ordered exempt from tax on pool table and bowling alley at Carolina Beach, on petition of residents of that place.” By the next month (Aug 25, 1891) the business is in full swing. “A ten-pin tournament was given at Carolina Beach by **Mr. Hans A. Kure**. The first day was for the ladies and the next day for the men. Handsome prizes were given, which had previously been exhibited at Dinglehoeff's jewelry store in Wilmington. Perfect order was observed at the alleys during the tournament.”

What was this all about? “December 21, 1891. The Board of County Commissioners ordered that the valuation of the property of Hans A. Kure, in Federal Point Township, be reduced from \$2,000 to \$1,000, and his personal property from \$2635 to \$1,350. WILM.MESSENGER, 12-22-1891.”



Kure Cottage

Business was clearly prospering for by summer of 1892 this note appears in the *Wilmington Messenger*(August 1, 1892): "Hans A. Kure made application for a retail liquor license at Carolina Beach, which was granted."

In August 1893 a major hurricane hit the beaches. This note appeared after the storm. "A number of residents of Carolina Beach published a resolution in the WILMINGTON MESSENGER newspaper about the gallant and efficient Hans A. Kure." It read in part as follows: "Before the storm had burst in all its fury, Mr. Hans A. Kure visited the beach, and, going from cottage to cottage, tendered to the inhabitants the hospitality of his residence situated a short distance from the beach. In the midst of impending danger, while the billows were lashing the beach and encircling many of the cottages, Mr. Kure, with the assistance of a number of white fishermen, by Herculean effort, rescued the valuables from the threatened cottages and transported them to a point of safety. His ministrations to the needs and comfort of many who sought shelter at his residence elicited the highest praise. To him is justly due and cordially tendered the heartfelt gratitude of all." (WILM.MESSENGER, 9-3-1893)

The year 1893 must have been one of those years! In October another, even more destructive storm blasted the area. "During the terrible hurricane very minor damage was done to the buildings, bath houses or residences on Carolina Beach, with the exception of fences, which were generally blown down or washed away. A few of the residences had their doors forced open and some panes of glass were blown in. The only damage of consequence was to the railroad track which had been badly washed at several points between the beach and the river. The pier leading out into the river was, however, all gone, except the pilings; the entire superstructure with ties and rails, having been washed away. The storm raged with great fury at "The Rocks." Six small cottages were demolished and swept away, the wharf being destroyed, and much damage was done to the fishing boats and nets. Mr. **Hans A. Kure** lost seines, nets, boats, and other articles belonging to his fishery." WILM.STAR, 10-15-1893.

As always the residents of the beaches were resilient. Two years after the horrible hurricane year the Kure's were back in business: "Mr. and Mrs. Hans A. Kure were now to be found at their 'Big Cottage on the Beach,' with a first-class boarding house at Carolina Beach. Meals and lunch could be had at all hours. Rooms were for rent, furnished or unfurnished, by day, week or season. Mr. Kure was to have charge of the Carolina Beach Club, about two squares from the Cottage." WILM.STAR, 6-2-1895 (adv)

One can imagine just how much work went into the Kures' summer enterprises. "July 4, 1895 (*Wilmington Star*) 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." Two years later (May 16, 1897) the following advertisement appeared in the *Wilmington Messenger*: "**H. A. Kure**, manager, announced that the Carolina Beach Pleasure Club was now open for the accommodation of members. The management was to spare no pains to make this season the most enjoyable of the club. Ladies and gentlemen friends were cordially invited to come down and try their hand at Ten Pins and Billiards and Pool." And again on June 8, 1897 "A license was granted to **Hans A. Kure** for the sale of spirituous liquors at Carolina Beach."

In the late 1890's the beaches must have been a major storm cycle. This Nor'easter hit the beaches in April, 1898 (*Wilmington Dispatch*): "One of the worse days experienced in a long time occurred today. It was cold and the wind blew fiercely all day. The Cape Fear River was lashed into a fury; Mr. T.F. Tyler reported that the occupants of a house at Carolina Beach sat up all night in the fear that the building would be blown down. It weathered the storm all right, though. And so did Sedgeley Hall Club house which had excellent foundations. Some of the telegraph lines were in distress until long after noon." WILM.WEEKLY STAR, 4-29-1898. "The wind blew big guns and hail fell in abundance. A cottage on the beach, the property of Mr. Hans A. Kure, was blown from its foundation and wrecked. It was not occupied. It was a total loss."

This poignant note brings the century to a close: "September 16, 1898 All the cottagers who had summered at Carolina Beach had moved back to the city and consequently the beach closed down today. There were no city people on the beach, even **Mr. Hans A. Kure** had gone. The steamer WILMINGTON ceased stopping at Carolina Beach. She now only made daily trips from Wilmington to Southport." THE SEMI WEEKLY MESSENGER, 9-16-1898.

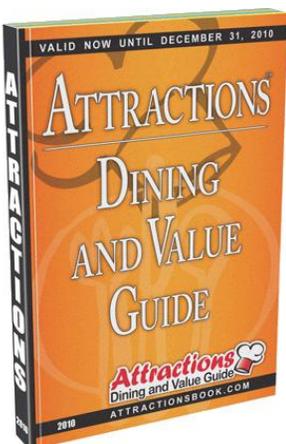
Society Notes

- The FPHS Board has approved a new membership dues schedule. Basic membership remain at \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. However we have some new categories of memberships that include Benefactor, Sponsor and Patron. We have also added a lifetime business category. Beginning January 1, 2010 your renewal will look slightly different and include the new categories.

- **Membership Information: Annette Winner**, Chairperson. A big welcome to new members **Bettie and Thomas West** and **Charlotte Davis** all of Wilmington. We have also added two new businesses to our sponsors, **LeSoLeil Botique and Gallery** at 112 Cape Fear Blvd. and **The Shoppes at Squigley's** located at 208 S. Lake Park Blvd.

- **History Center News: Darlene Bright, Director.** Volunteers who helped keep the HistoryCenter open in September were Lois Taylor, Demetria Sapienza, Juanita Winner, Ron Griffin, Jeannie Gordon, Elaine Henson, and Pat Bolander. In addition to 51 members and guests at our October meeting, we had 65 visitors at the History Center. Gift Shop Sales totaled \$114.65. Got'em-on-Live and the UDC also held their montly meetings at the center.

Don't forget the ATTRACTIONS coupon books are here. They are \$25.00 apiece again this year and for every one we sell the Society gets \$10.00! Get one to keep in your car. Or give them as gifts.



DONATIONS to the History Center Collection

Recently we received from:

Marion Leiner: large linen map of Fort Fisher

Janice Hindle: maps and pictures of the Dow Chemical Plant

Vicky H.: undated color pictures of downtown Carolina Beach

We are especially looking for PICTURES! If you have old pictures of Carolina Beach, Kure Beach, Seabreeze, or any part of Federal Point please consider LOANING them to us. We will scan them into our collection and return them within a few weeks.



Island of Lights 2009 Schedule

Light Up the Lake: November 27th 7pm

Christmas Parade: December 4th 7:30pm

Holiday Flotilla: December 5th 6pm

Tour of Homes: December 12th

New Year's Eve Countdown at Carolina Beach:
December 31st - Festivities begin at 9pm

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

DON'T FORGET
THE HISTORY CENTER GIFT SHOP
OPEN TUESDAY 12-4
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 10-4

**BOOKS, MAPS, PUZZLES, SWEATS
HIRTS, GAMES, CDS, DVDS!**

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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