



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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

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

Newsletter

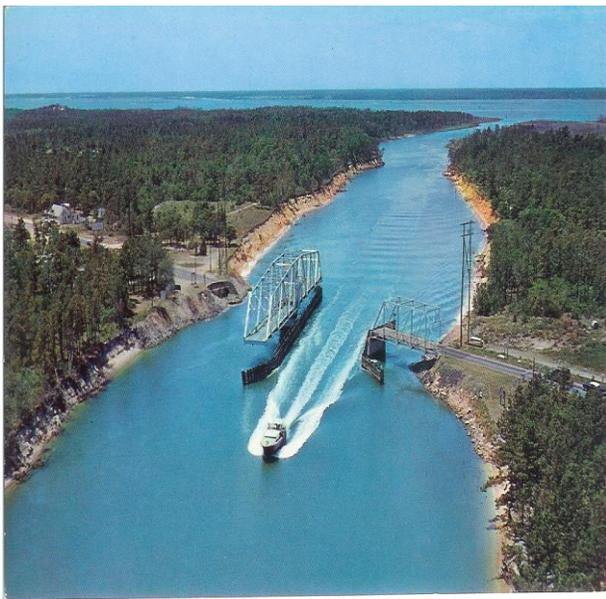
Volume 16 No. 10

October, 2009

Darlene Bright, editor
Rebecca Taylor, production

October Meeting Monday October 19, 2009

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, October 19, at 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.**



Local author and historian, Elaine Henson, will speak about the history of the well-known local landmark, Snow's Cut. Begun in 1929 as part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway or ICW, the Cut changed the Federal Point peninsula into an island. You will see how the town of Carolina Beach and the boardwalk looked at the time of the project.

But why is it called Snow's Cut? Elaine will tell us all about Major William Arthur Snow of the US Army Corps of Engineers, who was the District Engineer in charge of the Beaufort, NC to Cape



Fear River link of the ICW. She will share family photos of the man who endeared himself to the local populace in the four years that he and his family lived in Wilmington. She will also talk about the three bridges that have spanned the Cut since 1930.

Major William A. Snow, District Engineer, 1926-1930

Last Month's Meeting

Author and historian, Richard Triebe told us about what happened to the Confederate Soldiers who were captured at the fall of Fort Fisher. Sent to a number of POW camps in the North, the death toll at one camp in Elmira, NY, reached 1,233 North Carolinians before they were repatriated. Did you know that President Andrew Johnson didn't sign the final "declaration of peace" until August 20, 1865? That was new information to me, and I'm sure everyone came away from the program with new facts and ideas about the end of the war.

Don't forget that we also have a number of copies of Mr. Triebe's novel *On a Rising Tide, A Tale of Running the Civil War Blockade* for sale in the gift shop,

President's Message

I asked Rebecca to give me a report on how many active member we currently have. I think the results are interesting.

Business members: 20 Family Members 65 X 2 = 130

Individual members: 76 Lifetime Members: 12

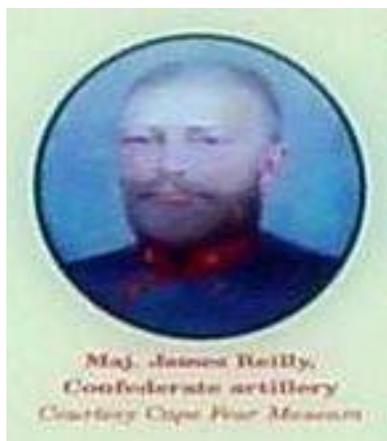
It's exciting that we've added four new Business members, one new Family and six new Individual members in the past two months!

I am looking forward to our October meeting and Elaine Henson's program on Snow's Cut. Hope to see you all there.

-Ron Griffin, President FPHPS

Historic Feature by Colonel Black Jack Travis

Major James Reilly was born on April 4th 1822 in Ballydonagh, Ireland. He immigrated to the US as a teenager. By the summer of 1845 he had enlisted in the US Army at Fort Columbus, NY. He participated as an artillerist in the War with Mexico and was promoted to the rank of sergeant. His military career then took him to Oklahoma Territory and the Indian Wars. He also fought the Seminole Indians in Florida with great



By 1860 he was in command at Fort Johnston in Southport, NC. When the hostilities broke out between the North and South, James Reilly chose the cause for Southern Independence. Promoted to Captain he took command of 10th NC. First Artillery which become known as the "Rowan Artillery." He served with the Army of Northern Virginia under General Robert E. Lee. Reilly's battery was rated 2nd in all of Lee's artillery. After the battle of Gettysburg on September 7th he was promoted to Major and transferred to Wilmington, NC where he served with distinction at Fort Fisher.

Major Reilly was present at the first Union attack on Fort Fisher on December 24th. When the Union made its 2nd attack on the Fort on January 15th 1865, Major Reilly was the highest ranking officer. Still standing. Fighting with great bravery and valor as Fort Fisher was overwhelmed by the Union forces, he surrendered the Fort at Battery Buchanan on the evening of the 15th.

Reilly was married to Ann Quinn from 1848-1877. In 1878 he married Martha E. Henry. After the war he served as the manager for Brunswick Ferry Company. He also farmed and built a Catholic Church at Farmer's Turnout, NC (Brunswick County) near his second wife's family. He died on November 7th 1894.

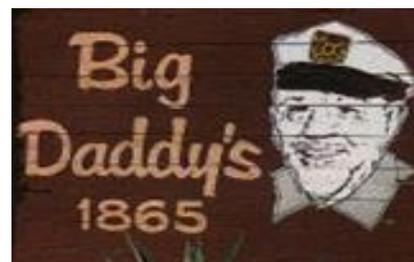
Reilly was married to Ann Quinn from 1848-1877. In 1878 he married Martha E. Henry. After the war he served as the manager for Brunswick Ferry Company. He also farmed and built a Catholic Church at Farmer's Turnout, NC (Brunswick County) near his second wife's family. He died on November 7th 1894.

Saturday October 24, 2009 - 10am.
Dedication of monument for Major James Reilly at Oakdale Cemetery. Descendents, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars are all participating. A full Confederate military salute will be given by Confederate reenactors from the 20th NC State Troops, Adams Battery, and the Fort Fisher gun crew. John Golden will provide the music. For more information contact: TRAVISEPA@aol.com.

Oral History Big Daddy's by Ann Hertzler

Doris Eakes worked at Smitty's for Charles Smith when he purchased the corner where Big Daddy's is located. He shortly opened a miniature golf course (a put-putt) on the front part of the lots. Tom Lancaster purchased the corner from the Smith's, added a small building behind the golf course, rented dune buggies, and sold hot dogs and hamburgers. A little later ice cream and pizza were added.

For the kids, he started an "Open Air" dance hall space out front. The music was loud! Lancaster was his own advertising media, driving his big Cadillac convertible all over the beach with large bull horns mounted on the hood blasting messages for everyone to come to Big Daddy's for dinner! He tried everything - first a breakfast house, an ice cream store, a full service restaurant with a buffet dining room, then a Steak House. By the early 70's Lancaster settled on seafood, steaks, and lobster tails.

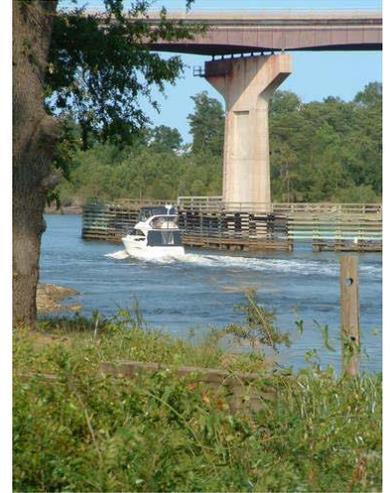


Of the original 8 or 9 Big Daddy's across NC and one in SC, there are now only two Big Daddy's stores - Kure Beach owned by Eakes and one at Lake Norman owned by Fred Lancaster, Tom Lancaster's grandson. Both stores serve "Seafood at it's Best." Eakes (one of the first radar operators to arrive at the beach in 1955) and Doris (nursing student attending James Walker School of Nursing in 1956) married in December 1956. The Eakes' purchased the Kure Beach store in 1981. As of 2008 Mr. Gerald Huffman continues to manage Big Daddy's of Kure Beach, keeping a steady and pleasant staff which is frequented by locals and visitors alike.

From the Bill Reaves Files
Files owned by the New Hanover County Public Library

July 4, 1929

Bids for construction of a temporary bridge over the Inland Waterway, at the point where it crosses the Carolina Beach highway, at an estimated cost of \$10,000 was asked for and was to be opened in the office of the Wilmington District engineer. The temporary span would be constructed for traffic over the 75-foot ditch. It was announced also that bid for a permanent bridge over the canal at this point, were asked for and the bids were to be opened by the district engineer of July 25th. This structure was to cost approx. \$100,000. WILM.STAR, 7-4-1929



December 14, 1929

Bids for the erection of a steel bridge on the Carolina Beach highway at the point of intersection of the Intra-Coastal Waterway, now under construction, were to be opened today in the Wilmington office of the North Carolina District of Army Engineers. This was the second time that bids had been received. The first were rejected because of high estimates. The span will be approx. 225 feet in length and was to be one of two types of draw bridges. It was not known yet when work on the span would start. WILM.STAR, 12-14-1929

January 20, 1930

Construction of the temporary wooden bridge at the intersection of the Carolina Beach road with section five of the Beaufort-Cape Fear inland waterway system was scheduled to begin in the near future. Detour approaches and embankments had already been constructed. The temporary span was to be used for 11 months or so. The wooden bridge was to be built on the river side of the beach highway. WILM.NEWS, 1-20-1930

March 9, 1930

Rapid progress on the dredging of Section Five of the Intracoastal Waterway canal had brought earlier use than expected for the temporary wooden bridge across the waterway on the Carolina Beach Road. The temporary bridge was not entirely completed but the structure was deemed safe for traffic. The early traffic was due to crowds of people wanting to view the progress of the dredging, and they crossed and re-crossed the bridge. The temporary bridge was built about 200 yards north of the main highway bridge. The highway was severed by the dredge before the wooden bridge was completed and forces had to speed up for the opening. So many spectators came by automobile to see the progress of the dredge that traffic at one time was almost an unbroken line of cars from the city to the beach. WILM.STAR, 3-10-1930

March 27, 1930

Secretary of War in Washington allotted \$135,000 for construction work on the Inland Waterway from Beaufort to Cape Fear River. According to the Wilmington office of the U.S. Army engineer, this money was to be used in the construction of a permanent bridge across the waterway on the Wilmington-Carolina Beach highway, as there was only a temporary structure at the crossing point on the highway at present. Bids for work on the bridge were opened some time ago, but the award of the contract was never made by the engineering department. In the meantime, money for the bridge had been spent on dredging work, on section 4 of the waterway. This allotment was thus made by the Secretary of War for the erection of the bridge. WILM.STAR, 3-28-1930.

April 4, 1930

The connection of the Cape Fear River with Myrtle Grove Sound, by way of the Inland Waterway, was completed when the dredge of the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific Company, working on Section Five of the Waterway, cut through to the sound. Reaching the sound brings near completion of the work on Section Five, which was halted for some time by the failure of the company to which the contract was originally awarded. WILM.STAR, 4-5-1930.

November 25, 1930

Construction of the \$110,000 draw-bridge over the Inland Waterway near Carolina Beach on Route No. 40, was begun by the Roanoke Iron and Bridge Works, of Roanoke, Va. A small group of workmen began the building operations.

A center pier was to be set in place within the next few days. The span was to be completed before the 1931 season at the beach. The contract was let over a year earlier by government officials but on account of various changes in the plans work had been delayed until today. Local labor was to be used where possible.

WILM.STAR, 11-26-1930; WILM.NEWS, 11-13-1930;11-20-1930;11-25-1930.

See also WILM.NEWS, 6-5-1930;11-13-1930;1-20-1931;3-12-1931

April 6, 1931

The Wilmington District Engineers reported that the draw bridge spanning the Inland Waterway canal would probably be open for traffic by July 1st. The bridge was to have an 80-foot draw and a clearance of 20 feet when closed. The span will be in constant use when completed due to the many small vessels using the waterway canal. At present a wooden bridge is being used. WILM.STAR, 4-6-1931; WILM.NEWS, 6-15-1931; WILM.NEWS, 8-15-1930?

October 22, 1931

The temporary wooden bridge over the Inland Waterway on the Carolina Beach Road was burned yesterday at the command of the district army engineer's office. Oil soaked waste was used in starting the blaze. After the draw burned through and fell into the canal, all the wreckage was removed. WILM.NEWS, 10-23-1931.

April 22, 1947

The Snow's Cut bridge was thrown out of business by a broken shaft, which jammed a gear. D. W. Stewart, operator of the bridge, said that the damages would not interfere with inland waterway traffic, and a new bridge shaft would soon be installed. WILM.NEWS, 4-23-194

November 11, 1961

Pillars to support the new fixed span bridge across the Inland Waterway near Carolina Beach were in place. The bridge was not a "high-level" bridge, but was high enough to permit passage of boats using the waterway and would eliminate most of the congestion caused by pile-up of autos held up by the draw. THE STATE magazine, 11-11-1961.

Society Notes

● Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of **Jennie Kure Robertson Bagley** who passed away recently. Jeannie was the daughter of Hans A. Kure and Jennie Linder Kure. While living at Kure Beach she was a charter member of the Kure Memorial Lutheran Church and active in local organizations, including President of the Carolina Beach School PTA. Before retirement in 1978 she worked for the Department of Transportation in Wilmington and as a secretary at UNC-Wilmington and UNC-Chapel Hill.

● Our **thoughts** and prayers also go to the husband and family of **Brenda Jean Riggs**. Born in Lenoir County on November 1, 1945 she was living in Dover NC when she passed. Brenda and her husband were the original owners of A & G Barbeque and early supporters of the FPHPS.

● **Membership Information: Annette Winner**, Chairperson. A big welcome to new members **Nell O'Connor** and **Lorene Hurst**, both of Wilmington, **Richard Graf** of Kure Beach, and **Bett Padgett** of Raleigh. We have also added two new businesses to our sponsors, **Russo's Motel** and **MuscleWorx Fitness Systems**.

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

Muscleworx Fitness Systems

B. Parker Protective & Lock

Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce

Russo's Motel

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!

The membership committee for 2009-2010 has gotten down to work and is working diligently on the new recruitment plan. Committee members are: **Annette Winner, Daniel Norris, Elaine Henson, and Demetria Sapinza.**

● **History Center News: Darlene Bright, Director.** Volunteers who helped keep the History Center open in September were Lois Taylor, Demetria Sapienza, Juanita Winner, Ron Griffin, Jeannie Gordon, Elaine Henson, and Pat Bolander. In addition to 45 members and guests at our August meeting, we had 59 visitors at the History Center. Gift Shop Sales totaled \$89.21. Got'em-on-Live and the UDC also held their montly meetings at the center.

Upcoming Community Events

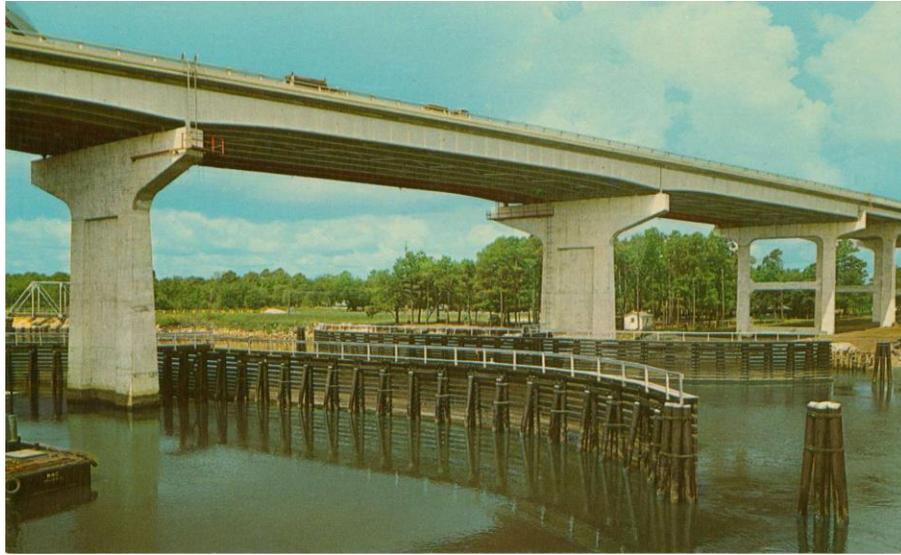
REUNION ALERT

The Carolina Beach School First Grade class is planning a weekend reunion, the "**1949 First Grade Class,**" that is. The reunion will be held the weekend of November 13 & 14. November 13 is for 1949 First Graders and November 14 for CB school attendees from 1945-1955. Additional information as to the event locations to be forthcoming in the local Island Gazette and FPHPS Newsletter or call: Pat Jones 799-4776; Frankie Jones 799-5764; Juanita Winner 458-5723

Saturday October 24, 10am. *Dedication of monument for Major James Reilly* at Oakdale Cemetary. Descendents, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars are all participating. A full Confederate military salute will be given by Confederate reenactors from the 20th NC State Troops, Adams Battery, and the Fort Fisher gun crew. John Golden will provide the music.

Friday, November 4: Trip to the Penderlea Homestead Museum. Members of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society and FPHPS invited. The group will caravan up I-40 to the River Landing exit and have lunch at the Mad Boar. Ann Cottle will join us for lunch and then lead the caravan to the Penderlea Museum in northern Pender County. If you are interested in making this day-trip ,please leave your name and phone number on the History Center phone: 910-458-0502.

MARK YOUR 2010 Calendars now! February 11, 2010 Cape Fear History Bowl -- Find Out How Much North Carolina History You Know! We've raised the \$200entry fee in time and we're registered to take a team to the competition. If you are interested in being on the team or being our alternate please let Rebecca know. We will continue to have a few questions at every meeting and will try to get a team selected by early December.



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

Federal Point Historic Preservation Society
P. O. Box 623
Carolina Beach, NC 28428