



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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

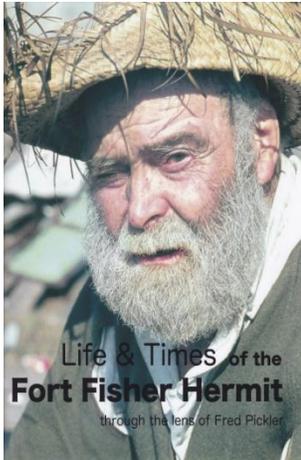
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Newsletter

Volume 17 No. 4

April, 2010

Darlene Bright, editor
Rebecca Taylor, production



April Meeting

Monday, April 19 - 7:30 pm

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

Due to some crossed wires we didn't get to hear Fred Pickler in January, but we've worked things out and he will be our speaker for the April meeting. Fred Pickler, the author/illustrator of the new book *The Life and Times of the Fort Fisher Hermit: through the lens of Fred Pickler*. Fascinated by the Hermit since his Boy Scout years, Fred has had a varied career in trucking, law enforcement, and sales of international arms. With *Life and Times* he returns to his roots and presents a photographic tribute of one of the area's most "original" residents. Pickler also gives full documentation to Harrell's somewhat mysterious death. Fred will tell us just what made Robert Harrill such a unique and special local "attraction." Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month we added another chapter to the Kure Family Legacy. The video focused on the building of the first pier as well as the beginning of the Town of Kure Beach. Pat Rice, Punky Kure, Curley Shands and Mike Robertson all joined us and added comments and answered questions. Pat Rice emphatically encouraged everyone to begin family history projects across all generations of their families.

Back by Popular Demand! Our Famous *Lower Cape Fear River Historic Cruise*

Sunday May 23, 2010
2:00-5:00 – \$25.00 per person
Aboard the Winner Cruise Queen



Travel from the Carolina Beach Marina through Snow's Cut to the Cape Fear River. The boat will then travel down the river to its mouth, past Bald Head Island, Oak Island and Southport. Along the way four well known historians will point out historic sites and talk about the many important events that happened along this vital waterway. Historians aboard will include **Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Jack Fryer, John Golden and Leslie Bright.**

Tickets available: **At the Federal Point History Center**, 1121-A N. Lake Park Blvd., (Just south of the CB Town Hall) Open: Tuesday 12-4, Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-4. Or **by mail to:** FPHPS, P.O. Box 623, Carolina Beach, NC 28428. You may also reserve tickets by calling 910-458-0502 and leaving a message. We will return your call to confirm number and amount to be paid. **All tickets must be paid for by 4pm, Saturday May 22.** Unpaid for tickets will be released for purchase at the dock, just prior to the cruise.



Walking Tour with Dr. Chris Fonvielle

A huge thanks from our entire membership goes out to Chris Fonvielle for conducting his “famous” walking tour of the Sugarloaf Line of Defense. We had twenty participants this year and everyone had a great time. If you haven’t taken this HIKE watch for it again next March.

President’s Message

Happy Springtime to all! In two short months we will be having our annual elections. At the April meeting of our Board of Directors a nominating committee was appointed.

Serving on that committee will be Annette Winner, Don Snook, and me. We will need to identify candidates for the four Officer positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) plus five positions on the Board of Directors. Officers serve a one-year term and Directors serve a two-year term. We will say more about this at the April meeting. If you are interested in serving the Society in the capacity of Officer or Director, please contact me (458-3946) or Annette or Don. If you know of someone else who might be willing to serve, let us know about that also. Nominations from the floor can also be made at the June meeting but it is highly desirable to have at least one candidate for each position identified prior to that meeting.

I hope to see many of you at our April meeting and I look forward to learning more about the Fort Fisher Hermit.

Ron Griffin

Oral History Committee – Ann Hertzler Margaret and Bob Ford

Margaret Newland finished high school in 1936 and came to live with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis T. Weinburg, at Kure Beach and go to business school. In 1940 Margaret married Robert Goode Ford. They lived in a garage apartment in the 2nd block of Atlantic Avenue right on the water. Margaret’s sons were born at New Hanover Hospital - Bobby in Sept 41 (Pearl Harbor was in December); Tommy in 43; and Jim in 46. Sometimes there was a doctor who lived at Carolina Beach; the dentist in Wilmington; and a drug store at Carolina Beach. A garage that Mr. Kure started was across from Big Daddy’s. The home demonstration club met monthly to talk about crafts, landscape problems, and different things.



Breakfast was mostly oatmeal or grits, just plain with butter and salt; biscuits or cornbread for supper or dinner; noon hour was leftovers. Liver mush was like scrapple; the hog’s liver ground with cornmeal - sliced and fried. Dinner was a meat, potato, and a vegetable - a lot of sweet potatoes and a lot of fish. We tried to have a little garden.

A grocery store at the corner of K was bought by the Lewis’ family. Then for about 25 or 30 years, almost to the 1980s, Bob and Margaret Ford sold groceries, tackle, bait, and fish for eating - flounder, mackerel. On Sunday night they often closed the store early to go to the Carolina Beach boardwalk dancing and the kids would do the arcades

Bob Ford was a civilian employee of the Corps of Engineers and did construction work at the airbase and for families in the winter. A lot of the military were older men with families at home. They enjoyed the Fords’ boys and still keep in touch. Bob at the time was working for the corps of engineers. He was a construction worker at Camp Davis (Holly Ridge) when they declared war. They packed all the equipment to ship overseas. Then he helped build the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base at Goldsboro and Butler.

Bob worked at Ethyl Dow where they made ethanol. Hourly bus service brought more workers from Wilmington. Ethyl Dow had an intake that drew the water in at Laquey where all the panels were and the colorful houses are now (2010). Water was piped to the plant on the river to make ethylene dibromide. After WWII, the plant moved to Texas.

In WWII, people were told not to go out. All of the windows had to be blacked out at night. You didn’t dare light a cigarette outside. This coast was a very sensitive area. You could see ships burning out there. German submarines were shooting at Ethyl Dow.

A ration book had a picture and number to tell you the kind of ration and the number of points. Shoe rationing was hard with growing kids. Food rationing for many shortages – mostly sweet stuff and meat. A lot of lamb was sent to the airforce base. The men wouldn’t eat it. So they gave it to Bob who was working there. A Greek friend of ours knew how to cook lamb. Our family loved it.



Hurricane Hazel: K Ave looking from the barber shop toward Smittys and the pier.

August 1, 1944 No name hurricane came suddenly with no weather reports. The chopping block of Jim's restaurant on K avenue ended up in front of the Ford garage apartment. A pier at Fort Fisher broke off in the storm. We watched big pilings go up in the air, come back down, and hit Kure's Pier. Civil Defense told every one to get out - no time to pack anything. Margaret's uncle took her, the boys, a neighbor and her little girl across the swing bridge into Wilmington to a hotel with no light, no power. Two men from Raleigh gave them their sixth floor room. Bob came about midnight looking for them; but they weren't registered. The next morning's paper said everything below the intake was gone. They got on the bus but weren't allowed across the bridge until Bob came for them. The apartment was still standing.

Mr. Kure owned an open-air bowling alley on K street catty corner from Big Daddy's. The community raised money to close it in as a first aid station in 1944. Everyone took a first aid course. If the bridge went out, no doctor could get here. The army corps offered to staff it if necessary.

In 1946 a bad nor'easter washed out 421 and Dow Road. Three in Kure Beach were 'expecting'. Arrangements were made with the state highway patrol to take us back over Heneger's Ditch, the drainage ditch on their property that ran to the river. People bought materials to build rock and wooden groins on the beach that ran out in the water to break the waves. They are still there buried over. The coastal authorities don't approve of it now.

Hazel - 1954 We built our house on Second street in 1950 - cinder block with the holes filled in and extra insulation. Margaret did all of the painting. They moved in in February of 1954. **Hazel hit in October.** The house stood through all of the hurricanes. The water has never come up more than about half way the first block of K. And a lot of the older buildings survived better then. The garage apartment we were first living in would give back and forth. We were used to it. Nobody put in air conditioning. Air conditioning meant opening the windows.

- BB&T**

 - Bert Croom Investigations
 - Britt's Donut Shop
 - Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc.
 - Courtyard by Marriott
 - Fort Fisher Restoration Committee
 - Frank's Pizza
 - Got-Em-On-Live Bait Club
 - Hanover Iron Works, Inc.
 - Harbor Masters Restaurant
 - Historical Society of Topsail Island
 - Island Gazette*
 - Le SoLeil, Botique & Gallery
 - Muscleworx Fitness Systems
 - B. Parker Protective & Lock
 - Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce
 - Russo's Motel
 - SlapDash Publishing
 - The Shoppes at Squigley's
 - Dr. Vincent Smith, DDS
 - Snow's Cut Monthly Magazine*
 - Taylor's Heating & Air, Inc.
 - Tucker Bros. Realty Company
 - Winner Fishing and Cruise Boats

Please take time to let our Business Members know how you appreciate their support.

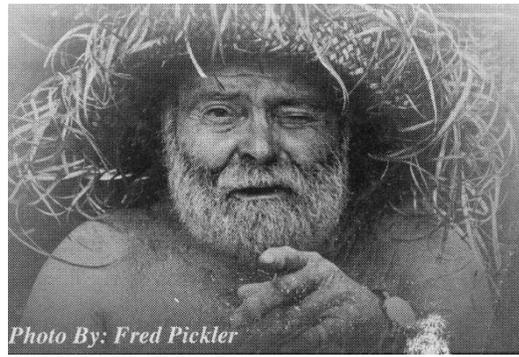


Photo By: Fred Pickler

To learn more about the Fort Fisher Hermit

- **Wikipedia.com** has a great article that covers Robert Harrell's life before Fort Fisher as well as his life as a hermit. It concludes with an analysis of the Hermit as a tourist attraction and details of the controversy over the details of his death.
- <http://www.thefortfisherhermit.com> is the web site for the award winning film *The Fort Fisher Hermit: The Life and Death of Robert E. Harrill*. Even if you already have the DVD check this web site out as they now have a variety t-shirts, caps, mugs and other "hermit" stuff.
- **Robert Harrill the Fort Fisher Hermit by Michael Edwards.** This is the definitive book about the Hermit. Unfortunately it is currently out of print. However on amazon.com you can purchase used copies of *The last battle for independence: The story of the Fort Fisher Hermit* also by Michael Edwards.

- <http://www.youtube.com> Just search for “Fort Fisher Hermit” to find a 3 minute clip with actual video of the Hermit – And don’t miss our own Leslie Bright talking about the appeal of the Hermit.

Society Notes

● **Membership Information: Annette Winner**, Chairperson. Wow! Two new business members and FIVE new personal members this month! Please extend a big welcome to **Lisa Ludwig Fisher** of Brooklyn, NY, **Lena Ludwig Lapper**, of Barnstaple UK (our first international member!!), **Benson and Terry Hall** of Carolina Beach, and **Andrea Moriarty** of Kure Beach. Our two new business members are **SlapDash Publishing** and **Winner Fishing and Cruise Boats**. *Be sure to thank them for their support when you patronize their businesses.*

● **History Center News: Darlene Bright, Director**. In addition to 37 members and visitors at our monthly meeting, March saw increased activity at the History Center. On Sunday March 7 we participated in “Be a Tourist in You Own Home Town,” welcoming 20 visitors to our History Center. The majority of folks had never visited before and were very impressed with our exhibits and the work we are doing.

On Thursday March 25 Dr. Chris Fonvielle led a group of approximately 20 people on a tour of the Sugar Loaf line of trenches and strategic earthen defenses to protect the port of Wilmington after the fall of Fort Fisher. We are so appreciative of all Chris does for our Society and look forward to a continued relationship.

On another note Doris Bame arranged for Rebecca to present a program on the Federal Point Lighthouse to the 4th graders at Carolina Beach Elementary School. After the visit the children were asked to draw a picture of the lighthouse and write a short essay on the lighthouse. The winners of our annual Essay Contest will be presented at the May Meeting.

Rebecca was well received; the children seemed truly interested in the history of the Lighthouse and asked many astute questions. The success of this program has inspired us to search for a grant that would help us develop programs to take into the schools hopefully expanding to other schools in the Federal Point area. Education is a big part of what we are about. We thank Rebecca and Doris for giving of their free time to get this project revitalized.

As always thanks to our March volunteers; **Lois Taylor, Demetria Sapienza, Pat Bolander, Ron Griffin, and Juanita Winner** who are always ready and willing to help keep the History Center open and do all the chores and activities that Rebecca has lined up for them. Visit us on Tuesdays 12-4, Fridays 10-4 and Saturdays 10-4.

The History Center is looking for someone to build a scale model of the 3rd 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



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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